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American Sunday School Union - Philad<sup>a</sup>

THE  
**LIFE**

OF

**GEORGE WASHINGTON.**

by Anna C Reed,

7716

WRITTEN FOR THE

AMERICAN SUNDAY-SCHOOL UNION.



AMERICAN SUNDAY-SCHOOL UNION.

PHILADELPHIA:

No. 146 CHESNUT STREET.

1829.

270

STILL  
MEN

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1800.

ADVERTISEMENT.

The historical portion of this volume is extracted from the best authorities, but it has been deemed unnecessary to introduce references.

*Eastern District of Pennsylvania, to wit:*

+++++ BE IT REMEMBERED, that on the thirtieth day of  
{L. S.} April, in the fifty-third year of the Independence of the  
+++++ United States of America, A. D. 1829, Paul Beck, jun.  
Treasurer, in trust for the American Sunday-School Union, of the  
said District, has deposited in this office the title of a Book, the  
right whereof he claims as Proprietor, in the words following, to  
wit:

**The Life of George Washington.** Written for the American Sunday-School Union. Revised by the Committee of Publication.  
Am. S. S. U.

In conformity to the act of the Congress of the United States intituled, "an act for the encouragement of learning, by securing the copies of maps, charts, and books, to the authors and proprietors of such copies, during the times therein mentioned"—and also to the act, entitled, "an act supplementary to an act, entitled, 'an act for the encouragement of learning, by securing the copies of maps, charts, and books, to the authors and proprietors of such copies during the times therein mentioned,' and extending the benefits thereof to the arts of designing, engraving, and etching historical and other prints."

D. CALDWELL,  
*Clerk of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.*

## INTRODUCTION.

IN the year 1486, a foot traveller, holding a boy by the hand, stopped at the gate of a convent in Spain, to ask for some bread and water for his wearied child; while he was receiving it from a kind Friar, he gave him a history of himself, and told him for what purpose he had come into that country. At that time, the inhabitants of Europe, Asia, and Africa, did not know that there was any other land than those continents, and some islands not very distant from them.

The most learned men, who were endeavouring to increase their knowledge of geography, thought that the ocean surrounded those countries like a great belt, and *Christopher Columbus*, the stranger who stood at the convent gate, was perhaps the first person who thought that belt might be crossed to the land on the opposite side; which was supposed to be the eastern part of Asia. He was born about the year 1436, and was the son of a wool-comber, who lived in a city of Italy, called Genoa, and who was too poor to give him much education; but Columbus was very attentive to the instructions which he re-

ceived in the few years that he went to school. When he was a child, he said he would like to be a sailor, and he was very diligent in using every opportunity to gain a knowledge of geography and navigation.

At the age of fourteen, he went to sea. A seafaring life was, at that time, a very dangerous and toilsome one; and the years of his boyhood were passed in hardships, which were severe but useful lessons to teach him to command his naturally hasty temper, and to endure sufferings without shrinking or complaining. He reflected on what he observed in his voyages, and on what he had learned of geography, and felt convinced, that if a vessel sailed from Europe towards the west, it might reach a land which was then unknown; and that land, he thought, it was probable was an inhabited one. He had early learned from the Bible, that a time will come when "All the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God," and he felt the religious hope, that he should be permitted to carry the glad tidings to the unknown land, which he began to speak of with as much certainty as if he had seen it. He considered his almost infant desire to become a sailor, as a proof that God was thus early preparing him to be the discoverer of that land; and this confidence never left his mind, but cheered him in his darkest hours of disappointment.

He thought deeply on the subject for many years, and at length, resolved to undertake a voyage of discovery, which the more he thought of, the stronger became his hope that it would be successful. He was too poor to fit out even a small vessel, and he could not persuade any person to assist him, in what was considered a wild and useless project. He formed the bold resolve to go to Portugal, and ask assistance from the king, who at first seemed willing to grant it, but after raising his hopes, disappointed them, and Columbus returned to his own country, and made an application there to the government for aid, but his request was disregarded. Poor as to earthly treasures, but rich in the possession of the divine promise, "Commit thy works unto the Lord, and thy thoughts shall be established," he persevered in his intention, and was on his way to seek assistance from Ferdinand and Isabella, the king and queen of Spain, when he stopped at the convent gate to ask for refreshment for his child, whom he was taking with him.

The kind man, to whom he related his plan, became interested for his success, and offered to keep his son, Diego, and educate him; and said he would give him a letter to a friend, who he thought could assist him to gain the favour of the queen. Columbus left his son with him, and travelled

to the city, where the king and queen resided. They would not even listen to his proposal to discover a new country for them, but he determined to remain there for some time, and he supported himself by designing maps. He was very pleasing in his appearance, and as he was master of his hasty temper, his manners were agreeable. In a short time, he gained the good will of some persons who interested themselves for him, and introduced him to the Archbishop of Spain, to relate to him the favourite subject of his thoughts. The Archbishop obtained permission for him to appear before the king and queen, and then the favourable manner in which they listened to him, gave him lively hopes that they would grant to him the assistance which he desired. They appointed persons to examine his plan for a voyage of discovery, who kept him for a long time uncertain as to what opinion they would give, and then said that they disapproved of it entirely.

Discouraged, but not despairing, Columbus resolved to leave Spain, and seek for assistance elsewhere, and was on his journey when he received a letter from a friend, desiring him to return immediately. That friend had succeeded in gaining permission to speak to the queen, and he had interested her so much by an eloquent account of the views of Columbus, that she said, "I



undertake the enterprise, and pledge my jewels to raise the necessary funds." These were joyful words to the ear of Columbus, and they were not vain words, for an order, signed by the king and queen, was given to him to enable him to fit out three caravals, or small vessels, for his voyage. They were to be prepared at the town of Palos, and such frightful tales were there gossipped about the dangers of the unknown deep, that even old seamen spoke of the intended voyage with dread; and Columbus had great difficulty to obtain crews for his little vessels.

On Friday, the third day of August, in the year 1492, he sailed from Palos, and the friends of the sailors who accompanied him, took leave of them with lamentations, and abuse of Columbus, for they felt certain his little fleet would never return. It was borne across the waves for several weeks, and no tokens of land appeared. The sailors became very anxious and discontented. One evening, a long dusky strip, like land, excited glad expectations, but the dawn of the next day showed that it was only a gray cloud along the horizon. They were several times disappointed in the same manner, and at length became desponding, and reproached Columbus with anger, and insisted that he should turn back towards Spain. He tried to sooth and encourage them to go on, but finding

that their desire to give up the voyage increased, he told them resolutely, "Happen what will, I am determined to persevere, until, by the blessing of God, I shall accomplish the enterprise." When he had made this declaration, his sailors became desperate, and resolved to force him to comply with their wishes; while they were planning how they should do so, some fresh grass, such as grows up in rivers, floated by the ships, and one of the sailors drew up a carved staff, and a thorn branch with berries on it, which the waves dashed against the side of the vessel. As the olive

Oct. 11. leaf, which God sent to Noah by the dove, cheered him in his ark with the hope that he should soon behold "the dry land," so, the carved staff and thorn stem, gave Columbus the expectation that he was drawing near to the land which was the object of his perilous voyage. To the sailors they were peace branches; for the hopes they raised that an inhabited country was not far distant, quieted all their angry feelings, and each one became engaged in watching for land, that he might give the first signal of discovery, for which a reward had been promised. The little fleet was moved rapidly on by a fresh breeze, which blew all day.

It was the custom of Columbus to close each day with an evening hymn, and on

the evening of that joyous day, on which the staff and thorn stem were seen, he spoke with great feeling to his sailors, and endeavoured to lead them to be grateful to the mighty Ruler of the waves, for his protection and goodness in guiding them safely to that hour of cheering hope. He then seated himself at the end of his frail vessel, and as it was borne along swiftly by the breeze, his eyes were fixed in watchfulness on the dusky horizon, until it was hid by the darkness of night. His anxious feelings prevented all disposition to sleep, and as he sat, with the silence of midnight around him, suddenly a light appeared, which seemed like a torch in the hand of a person, raising and lowering it as he walked. Long, very long, no doubt, appeared the hours from that moment until the dawning of day; but when that dawn came, which was the 12th of October, in the year 1492, the little vessel of Columbus became to him what "the mountain of Nebo" was to Moses; for as he had been led through the dangers of an earthly wilderness, to that mount from which he saw "the promised land," so Columbus had been guided by the same mighty hand over the desert of the ocean, to a spot from which his joyful eyes beheld the unknown land, on which his thoughts and hopes had been for many years engaged.

It was a beautiful level island, covered with

trees, like an orchard, and the inhabitants were soon seen running towards the shore, to gaze at the wonderful sight which was presented by the little fleet of Columbus. He entered his small-boat, and was rowed to the rural spot; he sprung on it with joy, and kneeled down to offer thanksgiving to God with tears of gratitude. As he approached, the wild natives had fled: but one of them, more courageous than the rest, ventured to return; and others, seeing that he was not harmed, soon joined him. They expressed their astonishment by making signs that they thought Columbus and his companions had come from the sky, and that the sails of the vessels were the wings on which they had flown down. He remained all the day amidst the refreshing groves, noticing the artless natives, and giving to them glass beads, and other trifles, which they received with wonder and gladness, and brought in return cakes, formed from a great root, which they cultivated in their fields. They had ornaments of gold around their necks, and made Columbus understand that they got them from a country to the south of their island. As he thought that the island was near India, he called the natives Indians; and that name has been continued to all the original inhabitants of the new world. He gave the name of San Salvador to the island; it is

one of the cluster which is now called the Bahamas.

When he had spent two days in examining the island, he determined to sail again and visit others, which, he understood from the natives, were not distant. He continued sailing in different directions for six months, and discovered the islands of Cuba and Hispaniola; he then returned to Spain, and entered the port of Palos. When the inhabitants heard of his arrival, there was a great tumult; and when they knew he had discovered “the unknown land,” and that some of the natives had willingly returned with him, they were ready to receive him with such honours as they would have paid to the king. What a contrast to the time of his departure, when every tongue was uttering lamentations or abuse!

1493.  
March 15.

When the king and queen heard of his return and success, they ordered great preparations to be made for welcoming him, and he was every where surrounded by a wondering and admiring multitude. Who would have thought that he was the same Columbus, who but a few years before, had stood at the convent gate, begging bread and water for his child! In the course of the next twelve years, he made four more very important voyages, and if “honour had been given to whom honour is due,” all the

newly found world would have been called Columbia. He was deprived of this merited honour by a rich merchant of Italy, named Amerigo Vespuccio, who sailed with a large fleet, and aided by the publications 1501. and maps of Columbus, reached a more southern part of the continent than he had visited, and gave so interesting an account of his voyage, and of the country he had seen, that his name was given to it, as if he had been its discoverer. Only a small district of North America is called Columbia; but the city of Washington, the seat of government, is built in it, and thus the names of Columbus and Washington are connected.

While he was engaged in making discoveries, Columbus endured various trials of mind, and toils of body, and after all his faithful services, the king of Spain refused even to enable him to pay his seamen, for whom he pleaded earnestly, although many of them had acted as his enemies. The amiable queen, Isabella, was an unchanged friend; but she died, and then it was vain for Columbus to ask for justice. He wrote to a friend, that he had done all in his power, and that he left the result to God, who had never forsaken him in his time of need. In his seventieth year, he felt that all his cares would soon cease, and he settled his earthly affairs, and prepared for death. He

charged his children to be active  
in spreading the Christian faith; 1506.  
and on the 20th of May, he uttered his last  
words, which were, "Into thy hands, O  
Lord, I commend my spirit."

The accounts which had been published  
by Columbus, caused many nations to de-  
sire to have possession of some portions of  
the new world: French, Dutch, and English  
navigators, made voyages of discovery, and  
claimed those parts on which they landed;  
and their governments made settlements on  
them. In the year 1496, John Cabot had  
the command of a small English fleet, with  
which he sailed to the west, and discovered  
a large island, which his sailors called New-  
foundland. He then sailed along the coast of  
North America, for some distance, but did  
not land. Several attempts were afterwards  
made by the English to form settlements in  
it, but they were not successful until the  
year 1607, when one hundred and  
five of them landed in Virginia, April.  
and built a town, which they called James-  
town, in honour of their king.

One of the most active of those settlers,  
was a Captain Smith, who gained the good  
will of all the natives near the settlement, but  
being one day at some distance from it, he  
was seized by a party of strange Indians, and  
taken to their king, Powhatan. It was de-  
termined that the prisoner should be put to



death, by having his head beat with clubs. He was laid on a large stone, and the death clubs were raised, when Pocahontas, the daughter of the king, threw herself beside him, and folding her arms around him, laid her head on his, and entreated that his life might be spared. She was only thirteen years of age, and was the darling of her father, who consented to her request, and Captain Smith was permitted to return to Jamestown. Some time after she was married, with the consent of her father, to a young Englishman, named Rolfe, and this secured Powhatan as a faithful and powerful friend to the settlers. Pocahontas professed belief in the Christian religion, and was baptized by the name of Rebecca. In 1620, the second English settlement in North America was made.

A number of families, who were not at liberty in England to worship God as they thought right, went over to Holland, and had remained there for ten years, when they resolved to seek for homes in America. One hundred and one arrived like pilgrims, in the beginning of winter, in a strange country, where there was no friend to welcome them, or shelter for them to enter. They purchased land from the Indians in Massachusetts, and began to clear a spot for a town, which they called New-Plymouth. They endured, with resolute

1620.

Nov. 11.



cheerfulness, the toils and dangers of forming homes in a wilderness, because they believed that God would "not leave them, nor forsake them." They desired to "worship him in spirit and in truth," and trusted in his promise that "all things should work together for their good." Other settlements were gradually made in different parts of the country, and in the year 1682, William Penn, from whom Pennsylvania was named, brought from England a number of families, who had been persecuted on account of their religious opinions. He purchased land for them from the Indians, who kindly taught them how to make sodded huts, on the spot where Philadelphia now stands. Each settlement was called a Province, and the inhabitants made regulations for their own government, but acknowledged themselves to be subjects of the king of England. Those who had fled from their native land, that they might worship God with freedom, believed that they should have fulfilled to them His promise which they found in the Scriptures, "Though I have scattered them, yet I will be unto them as a little sanctuary in the countries where they shall come,"

1682.  
October.



# THE LIFE OF WASHINGTON.

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## CHAPTER I.

To give us the delightful assurance, that we are always under the watchful care of our powerful and kind Creator, he has told us in the Bible, that he notices every little sparrow; and as we are "of more value than many sparrows," he will surely ever care for us. It was his powerful and kind care that protected and guided Columbus, the once poor sailor boy, to obtain the favour of a great king and queen; and then to pass over the waves of a dangerous ocean, in a little vessel, and reach in safety an unknown land. And it was the same powerful and kind care, protected and guided houseless strangers to seek spots in that land, on which they might find homes; and then, gave Washington to their children, to lead them on to take a place amongst the nations of the earth. His history is as a shining light upon the path of virtue; for he "acknowledged God in all his ways."

GEORGE WASHINGTON was the third son of Augustine Washington, whose grandfather left England, his native country, in 1657, and chose a home at Bridges Creek, in Virginia, where, on the 22d of February, in the year 1732, his great grandson George was born.

One of the first lessons which young Washington received from his faithful parents, was, the importance of always speaking the truth; and they enjoyed a satisfactory reward for their attention to this duty, for through his childhood, "the law of truth was in his mouth," so that he was not known in one instance to tell a falsehood, either to obtain a desired indulgence, or to escape a deserved punishment or reproof. His character as a lover of truth, was so well known at the school which he attended, that the children were certain of being believed, when they related any thing, if they could say, "George Washington says it was so." In all the little disputes of his school companions, he was called on to say which party was right, and his decisions were always satisfactory, for

"Where *truth* is found, bright virtue still resides,  
And equal justice every action guides."

When he was ten years old, his worthy  
1742. father died, and he became the  
care of an anxious mother, whose

fortune was not sufficient to enable her to give him more than a plain English education. He was very fond of studying mathematics, and applied his mind diligently, in using all the instruction which he could get in that science. As he grew up to manhood, he was remarkable for the strength and activity of his frame. In running, leaping, and managing a horse, he was unequalled by his companions, and he could with ease climb the heights of his native mountains, to look down alone from some wild crag, upon his followers, who were panting from the toils of the rugged way. By these healthful exercises, the vigour of his constitution was increased, and he gained that hardiness so important to him in the employments designed for him by his Creator.

Mrs. Washington was an affectionate parent; but she did not encourage in herself that imprudent tenderness, which so often causes a mother to foster the passions of her children by foolish indulgences, and which seldom fails to destroy the respect which every child should feel for a parent. George was early made to understand that he must obey his mother, and therefore he respected as well as loved her. She was kind to his young companions, but they thought her stern, because they always felt that they must behave correctly in her pre-

sence. She owned a remarkably fine colt, which she valued very much; but which, though old enough for use, had never been mounted; no one would venture to ride it, or attempt to break its wild and vicious spirit. George proposed to some of his young companions, that they should assist him to secure the colt until he could mount it, as he had determined that he would try to tame it. Soon after sunrise, one morning, they drove the wild animal into an enclosure, and with great difficulty succeeded in placing a bridle on it. George then sprang upon its back, and the vexed colt bounded over the open fields, prancing and plunging to get rid of his burden. The bold rider kept his seat firmly, and the struggle between them became alarming to his companions who were watching him. The speed of the colt increased, until at length, in making a furious effort to throw his conqueror, he burst a large blood-vessel, and instantly died. George was unhurt, but was much troubled by the unexpected result of his exploit. His companions soon joined him, and when they saw the beautiful colt lifeless, the first words they spoke were, "What will your mother say—who can tell her?" They were called to breakfast, and soon after they were seated at the table, Mrs. Washington said, "Well, young gentlemen, have you seen my fine sorrel colt in

your rambles?" No answer was given, and the question was repeated; her son George then replied—"Your sorrel colt is dead, mother." He gave her an exact account of the event: the flush of displeasure which first rose on her cheek, soon passed away; and she said calmly, "While I regret the loss of my favourite, *I rejoice in my son, who always speaks the truth.*"

In his fifteenth year, he had so strong a desire to be actively employed, that he applied for a place as a midshipman in the English navy, and succeeded in obtaining it. Full of youthful expectations of enjoyment in a new scene, he prepared ardently to engage in it, when he became convinced that by doing so, he should severely pain an anxious parent; and with a true spirit of obedience to the command, "Honour thy mother," he gave up his fondly cherished plan, and yielded his own inclinations, to promote her comfort. This act of filial affection proves, that while his manly superiority to companions of his own age, caused admiration, his self-denying tenderness as a son, deserved esteem.

Being unwilling to remain inactive, he employed himself industriously and usefully in surveying unsettled lands; and when he was nineteen years of age, he was appointed one of the adjutant generals of Virginia, with the rank of a 1751.

major. At that time, the French nation had large settlements in Canada, and in Louisiana, and they determined on connecting those settlements by a line of forts; in doing this they took possession of a tract of land, which was considered to be within the province of Virginia. The governor of Virginia (Mr. Dinwiddie) thought it was his duty to notice this, in the name of his king, and it was very important, that the person whom he employed in the business, should have resolution and prudence. Young Washington was worthy of his confidence; and willingly undertook the perilous duty, as it gave him an opportunity of being actively employed for the advantage of his native province. The dangers which he

1753. knew he must meet, did not, for a moment, deter him from consenting to set out immediately on the toilsome journey, although winter was near. He was to take a letter from the governor, to the commanding officer of the French troops, who were stationed on the Ohio river; and the way he had to go, was through a part of the country that had never been furrowed by the plough, or indeed visited by any footsteps, but those of wild animals, or ferocious Indians. Many of those Indians were enemies, and those who had shown any disposition to be friendly, could not be safely trusted.



The same day on which Wash-  
ington received the letter, which Oct. 31.  
he was to be the bearer of, he left Williams-  
burgh, and travelled with speed until he  
arrived at the frontier settlement of the pro-  
vince; and there engaged a guide to show  
him the way over the wild and rugged Alle-  
ghany mountains, which, at that season of  
the year, was a very difficult one to pass.  
The waters to be crossed were high, and  
the snow to be waded through was deep;  
but persevering resolutely, he arrived at  
Turtle Creek, where he was told by an In-  
dian trader, that the French commander had  
died a short time before, and that the French  
troops had gone into winter quarters.

He went on with increased ardour, be-  
cause the difficulty of his duty was in-  
creased; but he did not neglect the oppor-  
tunity of examining the country through  
which he passed; wishing to discover the  
best situations on which forts could be  
erected for the defence of the province. He  
particularly marked the spot on which  
Pittsburgh now stands; but the French,  
soon after, built a fort there, which they  
called Fort Duquesne. Washington re-  
mained a few days in that neighbourhood,  
for the purpose of endeavouring to persuade  
the Indian warriors to be friendly to the  
English. An Indian trader had just re-  
turned from visiting the French comman-

der, to whom he had been sent, with a complaint from his nation against the French troops. Washington asked him how he had been received by the commander? He said he was very stern, and asked him what he had come about, and that he replied—"Fathers, I am come to tell you your own speeches—what your own mouths have declared. Fathers, you in former days set a silver basin before us, wherein there was the leg of a beaver, and desired all the nations to come and eat of it—to eat in peace and plenty, and not be churlish to one another: and that if any person should be found to be a disturber, I here lay down by the edge of the dish a rod, which you must scourge them with. Now, fathers, it is you who are disturbers in this land: we kindled a fire for you, a long time ago, at Montreal, where we desired you to stay; I now desire that you may despatch to that place,—for, be it known unto you, fathers, this is our land, and not yours." The simple eloquence of the Indian, pleased Washington so much, that he wrote all his speech in his journal. By a firm but mild manner, he gained friends among the inhabitants of the forest, and obtained guides to conduct him by the shortest way to the fort, where he expected to find a French officer, to whom he might give the letter from the governor, as the commander was dead.

He arrived there in safety, and when he had received an answer from the officer, set out immediately on his return journey, which proved a very dangerous and toilsome one. Some extracts from his journal, which he kept with exactness, will show his disregard of self, when he was performing a duty for the benefit of others. He had put on an Indian walking dress, and given his horse to assist in carrying provisions; the cold increased very fast, and the roads were getting worse every day, from a deep snow freezing, so that the horses became almost unable to travel. After describing this difficulty, he wrote thus:—

“As I was uneasy to get back, to make a report of my proceedings to his honour the governor, I determined to prosecute my journey the nearest way, through the woods, on foot. I took my necessary papers, pulled off my clothes, and tied myself up in a watch coat. Then, with gun in hand and pack on my back, in which were my papers and provisions, I set out with Mr. Gist, fitted in the same manner. We fell in with a party of Indians, who had lain in wait for us. One of them fired not fifteen steps off, but fortunately missed; we walked on the remaining part of the night, without making any stop, that we might get the start so far, as to be out of the reach of their pursuit the

next day, as we were well assured that they would follow our track as soon as it was light. The next day we continued travelling until quite dark, and got to the river. We expected to have found the river frozen, but it was not, only about fifty yards from each shore. The ice I suppose had been broken up, for it was driving in vast quantities. There was no way of getting over but on a raft; which we set about, with but one poor hatchet, and finished just after sun setting: this was a whole day's work. We got it launched, then went on board of it, and set off; but before we were half-way over, we were jammed in the ice in such a manner, that we expected every moment our raft to sink, and ourselves to perish. I put out my setting pole to try to stop the raft, that the ice might pass by, when the rapidity of the stream threw it with so much violence against the pole, that it jerked me out into ten feet water."

In this dangerous situation he was saved by the protecting hand of God, and enabled to get on to the raft again, and by the next morning, the river was frozen so hard, that there was no difficulty in getting to the shore on the ice. The remainder of the journey was very fatiguing, being in the month of December, and for fifteen days it either snowed or rained.

He arrived the 16th of January at Wil-





Williamsburgh, and delivered the important letter to the governor. 1754.

The answer of the French officer, which was contained in the letter, was such as to make needful immediate preparations for defending the frontier of the province. The resolution with which Washington had performed the duty entrusted to him, and the judgment he had shown in his conduct towards the Indians, gained the favourable opinion of the people of the province, as well as that of the governor, and he was appointed a lieutenant-colonel of the regiment which was formed to march to the frontier, and prevent the French erecting their forts on it. Ardent and active, he obtained permission to march with two companies in advance of the regiment, to a place called the Great Meadows; he thought, that in doing so, he would have an opportunity of getting early information as to the movements of the French, and of forming a treaty with the Indians, to prevent their joining them. On arriving there he was informed, by an Indian, that the French commander had sent a party to stop the American workmen, who were erecting a fort; and that they were forming one for themselves, called Fort Du Quesne. The Indian also gave the information, that French troops were advancing from that fort towards the Great Meadows. The night on which this account was



given, was dark and rainy, but Washington marched rapidly with his soldiers to the place where the Indian said the French would be encamped; and there he found them, and surrounded them so unexpectedly, that they gave themselves up as his prisoners. The chief officer of that part of the regiment which was marching slowly on, died; and Washington then had the entire command of about four hundred men. They joined him, and he directed them to form a shelter for their horses and provisions; when it was completed, they named it Fort Necessity.

After placing the horses and baggage in it, Washington marched with his troops towards Fort Du Quèsne, for the purpose of endeavouring to drive the French from it; but when he had advanced about thirteen miles, an Indian told him, that there were “as many Frenchmen coming towards him as there were pigeons in the woods,” and he thought it was most prudent to return to his little fort, and meet their attack there. He returned, and assisted his men in  
1754. digging a ditch round the fort, and  
July 3. while they were thus engaged, about fifteen hundred French and Indians made their appearance, and soon began to attack them. The ditch was not sufficiently completed to be of any use. The Indians sent their arrows from behind the surround-



ing trees, and the French fired from the shelter of the high grass. Washington continued outside of the little fort, directing and aiding his soldiers, from ten o'clock until dark, when the French commander made an offer to cease the attack, if the fort would be given up to him. The conditions he first named, Washington would not agree to; but at last, the French commander consented to allow the troops to march out with their baggage, and return to the inhabited part of the province, and Washington then gave up the fort. He returned to Williamsburgh, and the courage with which he had acted, and the favourable terms he had obtained from so large a force, increased the confidence of his countrymen in his character.

In the course of that winter, orders were received, that officers who had commissions from the king, should be placed above those belonging to the province, without regard to their rank. The feeling of what was due to him as an American, prevented Washington submitting to this unjust regulation, and he resigned his commission. Many letters were written to him, to persuade him not to do so; and he answered them, with an assurance that he would "serve willingly, when he could do so without dishonour." His eldest brother had died, and left to him a farm, called Mount Vernon, situated in Virginia, near the Potomac river; he took

possession of it, and began to employ himself industriously in its cultivation. While he was thus engaged, General Braddock was sent from England, to prepare and command troops for the defence of Virginia, through the summer; hearing of the conduct of Washington, as an officer, and of his reasons for giving up his commission, he invited him to become his aid-de-camp. He

1755. accepted the invitation, on condition, that he might be permitted to return to his farm, when the active duties of the campaign should be over.

The army was formed of two regiments of British troops, and a few companies of Virginians. The third day after the march commenced, Washington was taken ill, with a violent fever. He would not consent to be left behind, and was laid in a covered wagon. He thought that it was very important to reach the frontier as soon as possible, and he knew the difficulties of the way; he therefore proposed to General Braddock, who asked his advice, sending on a part of the army, while the other part moved slowly, with the artillery and baggage wagons. Twelve hundred men were chosen, and General Braddock accompanied them; but though not cumbered with baggage, their movements did not satisfy Washington. He wrote to his brother, that, "instead of pushing on with vigour, without minding a little rough road,

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the terrible scene of Braddock's defeat. The plough has since furrowed the ground which was then moistened with the blood of the slain; but it is saddening to see on it white spots of crumbled bones, and to find amidst the green stalks of grain, buttons of the British soldiers, (marked with the number of their regiment,) and even the brazen ornaments of their caps. "Braddock's road," as the path was called, which his troops cut through the forest, is now almost overgrown with bushes; but few travellers pass near to it, without stopping to look along its windings, and recall the time when it was filled with animated soldiers, who were soon to be awfully silenced by the destructive weapons of war.

In writing an account of this dreadful defeat, Washington said, "See the wondrous works of Providence, and the uncertainty of human things!" He was much distressed by the loss of the army, and the officer next in command to General Braddock, instead of endeavouring to prepare for a better defence, went into winter quarters, although it was only the month of August. It was thought necessary to raise more troops immediately, and the command of all that should be raised in Virginia was offered to Washington, with the privilege of naming his own officers. He willingly accepted this offer, as he could do so without placing himself under Bri-

tish officers who were not really above him in rank. He immediately set off to visit the troops that had been placed in different situations along the borders of the province; and on his return to prepare for an active defence, he was overtaken by a messenger, with an account, that a number of French troops and Indian warriors, divided into parties, were capturing and murdering the inhabitants of the back settlements,—burning the houses and destroying the crops; and that the troops stationed there, were unable to protect them. Washington immediately used every means within his power to provide for their relief; but it was impossible to defend, with a few troops, a frontier of almost four hundred miles, from an enemy that “skulked by day and plundered by night.” While he was anxiously doing what he could, he wrote to the governor an account of the distress around him; and added, “I see their situation,—I know their danger, and participate their sufferings, without having the power to give them further relief than uncertain promises. \* \*

The supplicating tears of the women, and the moving petitions of the men, melt me with deadly sorrow.” It might have been expected, that the people in their distress would blame him for not protecting them better; but no murmur arose against him; they all acknowledged,

1756.

that he was doing as much for them as was within his power.

He wrote to the lieutenant-governor the most earnest and pressing requests for more assistance; but instead of receiving it, he was treated unkindly, as he related in a letter to a friend. "Whence it arises, or why, I am truly ignorant, but my strongest representations of matters, relative to the peace of the frontiers, are disregarded as idle and frivolous; my propositions and measures as partial and selfish; and all my sincerest endeavours for the service of my country, perverted to the worst purposes. My orders are dark, doubtful, and uncertain.—To-day approved, to-morrow condemned; left to act and proceed at hazard, and blamed without the benefit of defence. However, I am determined to bear up some time longer, in the hope of better regulations." Though disappointed in all his best formed plans, by the obstinacy and ill nature of the person who had the power to control him; and pained by the increasing sufferings around him, which he was not aided to relieve, yet he did not "become weary in well-doing," or suffer an angry resentment to induce the selfish conduct of giving up his power to do some good. He continued his active and humane endeavours, and pleaded for the relief of his suffering countrymen, until his pleadings were called impertinent;

in answer to this, he wrote to the governor, "I must beg leave, in justification of my own conduct, to observe, that it is with pleasure I receive reproof when reproof is due; because no person can be readier to accuse me than I am to acknowledge an error, when I have committed it; or more desirous of atoning for a crime, when I am sensible of being guilty of one. But on the other hand, it is with concern, I remark, that my conduct, although I have uniformly studied to make it as unexceptionable as I could, does not appear to you in a favourable light." With calm dignity he endured a continuance of such vexations, without ceasing to toil in his almost hopeless work of humanity.

A new commander of the British troops was sent from England, and he listened to Washington's opinion, that the frontiers could not be freed from the dreadful visits of the Indians, in connexion with the French, until they were driven from Fort Du Quesne; for that was the place from which they started on their destructive expeditions. When it was determined that this should be attempted, Washington advanced with a few troops, to open the way for the army, but before they reached the fort, the French left it, and the English took possession of it, and named it Fort Pitt. As Washington had expected,

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possession of this fort prevented all further attacks on the frontiers; and when his countrymen were freed from the dangers which he had left his farm to assist in defending them from, he determined on returning to it. His health had been injured by his being exposed to severe cold, and by being often, for many days, unsheltered from the falling rain, and he felt that he ought to use means to restore it, as he could do so without neglecting a more important duty. He resigned his commission, and the officers whom he had commanded, united in offering to him affectionate assurances of regret for the loss of "such an excellent commander, such a sincere friend, and so affable a companion."

Soon after his return to his farm, in the twenty-seventh year of his age, he married Mrs. Custis, a lady to whom he had been long attached, and who was deserving of his affection. She had an amiable temper, and was an agreeable companion; and in performing all the duties of a wife, she made his home a scene of domestic comfort, which he felt no desire to leave. Employing himself in directing the cultivation of his ground, and in the performance of all the private duties of his situation, he lived for several years in retirement; except when attending the legislature of Virginia, of which he was a member.

For the benefit of his health, he some-



times visited a public spring in his native state, to which sick persons went, with the hope of being relieved by using the water. At the season when there were many persons there, it was the custom of a baker to furnish a particular kind of bread, for those who could afford to pay a good price for it. One day, it was observed by a visiter, that several miserably poor sick persons tottered into the room where the bread was kept, and looked at the baker, who nodded his head, and each one took up a loaf, and with a cheered countenance, walked feebly away. The visiter praised the baker for his charitable conduct, in letting those have his bread, whom he knew could never pay him; but he honestly answered, "I lose nothing,—Colonel Washington is here, and all the sick poor may have as much of my bread as they can eat; he pays the bill, and I assure you, it is no small one."

All his private actions were as deserving of the approbation of his countrymen, as his public ones had been of their respect and praise; and those who were nearest to him, and knew him best, loved him most.

## CHAPTER II.

The desire to possess power, and the ill use of it when possessed, have caused much misery in nations, societies, and families; and even children show the evil effects in overbearing conduct to each other, and in delighting to crush the feeble worm which crawls at their feet. But if that love which fulfils the law of God was in every heart, the perfect precept of our divine Redeemer, "All things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them," would be the rule of all actions; then children would be kind, and live in harmony; and families, societies, and nations, would be ever peaceful. The English  
1763. government disregarded this precept, and made an unjust use of their power over the American provinces. The people paid various duties on their trade, and made no objection to doing so; but at the close of the war with the French, the English parliament determined on taxing them, for the purpose, they said, of assisting to pay the expenses of the war. The Americans had lost a great number of their young men in that war, and had also contributed their full

proportion of money for carrying it on; this new tax, therefore, caused universal displeasure, and they began to think, and to say, that parliament had no right to tax them, as they were not allowed to send members to that body, to represent them.

Petitions against the tax were sent to the king and to parliament, but they were disregarded; and in the year 1765, a law, called the "stamp act," was passed, March 10. which was to oblige the Americans to use paper with a particular mark stamped on it; that paper was to be taxed, and no writings of agreement were to be considered binding, unless they were written on stamped paper. The Americans resolutely determined on opposing this tax. In New York the act was printed, and carried about the streets, by the title of "The Folly of England, and the Ruin of America," and when the ships that brought the stamps arrived at Philadelphia, all the vessels in the harbour hoisted their colours half-mast high, as a sign of mourning, and the state-house bell was muffled, and continued to toll until evening. The same dissatisfaction was felt in all the provinces; and when this was known in England, there were many speeches made on the subject, by members of parliament. One of them, Mr. Grenville, said, the Americans ought not to object to assist in paying the debts of the

English government, for they were "children of their planting, and were nourished by their indulgence, and protected by their arms, until they had grown up to a good degree of strength and opulence."

Colonel Barré, a member who was desirous that they should be treated justly, said, in answer—"Children planted by your care! No—your oppression planted them in America! They fled from your tyranny into a then uncultivated land, where they were exposed to all the hardships to which human nature is liable. 'They nourished by your indulgence!' No—they grew by your neglect! When you began to care about them, that care was exercised in sending persons to rule over them, whose behaviour, on many occasions, has caused the blood of those sons of liberty to boil within them! 'They protected by your arms!' They have nobly taken up arms in your defence; have exerted their valour amidst their constant and laborious industry, for the defence of a country, the interior of which, while its frontiers were drenched in blood, has yielded all its little savings to your enlargement."

The different provinces or colonies, as they were called, sent some of  
October. their wisest men to New York, to consult together on the subject of the right of the English government to tax them, and

they decided that it had not the right. A petition was drawn up to send to the king, and one also to the parliament, in which the Americans asserted the power of taxing to belong to themselves alone. When the parliament found that the resolution to oppose the stamp act, was so general and firm in all the provinces, it was repealed; but as they were determined to show the Americans that they would not give up the power of taxing them, in the next year they laid a duty on glass, paints, and tea. Objections and petitions were again sent to parliament, by the Americans, and at length 1769.

those duties were all taken off, excepting that on tea. While one tax was continued, the Americans would not be satisfied; they were not unwilling to pay it, because they did not wish to part with their money, but because they would not give up the opinion, that the English government had no just right to it, unless they were allowed to have a part in the government, by sending members to the parliament.

Dr. Franklin, who was highly respected in Europe, not only for his good character, but for his wisdom in making many useful discoveries, was in England, trans- 1773.  
acting business for some of the inhabitants of Massachusetts, his native province, and he was appointed to present a petition from the assembly of that province

to the English government, and was very active in endeavouring to obtain justice for his countrymen. As the tax on tea was continued, the Americans resolved not to use any; and the parliament then made an agreement with the India Tea Company, by which they were to send vessels with tea to the provinces, and receive the duties on it, and then pay them to the English government. But the Americans had resolved to resist the tax, no matter in what way it was laid; and when the vessels arrived, they would not allow the tea to be landed. The people of Boston were so much displeased, when a vessel with a cargo of tea arrived there, that seventeen of the most resolute

1774.      went, disguised as Indians, on board, and threw all the tea into the sea.

This conduct caused the parliament to determine on using all their power to punish the Americans; but particularly the inhabitants of Massachusetts, and they made a law, that the governor, and magistrates, and other officers of that province, should no longer receive their salaries from the people, so as to be dependent on them—but that they should be appointed by the king, and paid by him; and that if any persons were accused of murder, or other great crimes, they should not be tried in the province, but be sent to England to be tried. When these

new laws were known by the people of the other provinces, they sent assurances to the people of Massachusetts, that they would unite in assisting them to resist such injustice. The day on which those laws were to commence, was appointed by the legislatures of the different provinces, as one of fasting, humiliation, and prayer, in which the people should attend their places of worship, and unite in asking the support and direction of God, in that time of public difficulty. June 1.

One of the titles given to God in the Bible, for our comfort, is, "Thou that hearest prayer;" and our divine Redeemer has said, "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you;" and in the beautifully plain parable of the Pharisee and the Publican, he set before us an example of the kind of prayer that would be acceptable to God. No doubt many pious American hearts offered such a prayer, with humility and faith, and their prayers were granted; for they never would have succeeded in defending their rights, unless the mighty hand of God had upheld and guided them. A general agreement was formed, to have a congress of members chosen by each province, to consult on the best course which could be pursued. Each province was to have one vote.



On the 5th of September, in the year 1774, they met at Philadelphia. Washington was one of the members, sent by the province of Virginia. He had, on all proper occasions, expressed the opinion that the English parliament had no just right to tax the Americans; and he had spoken so firmly, though calmly, on the subject, that he was called "the Virginia Patriot." The Congress appointed committees, to state what the Americans considered to be their rights, and to prepare an address to the people of England, and one to the king. After stating to the king their causes for complaint, they assured him, that they were willing to continue under his government, if their just requests were granted. They said, "We ask but for peace, liberty, and safety; we do not solicit the grant of any new right in our favour." The manner in which this petition was treated, convinced the Americans that they must submit, or prepare for mournful events. The king declared his firm resolve to rule them as he thought best;

1775. and General Grant said in parliament, that he "would undertake to traverse the whole country with five regiments, and drive the inhabitants from one end of the continent to the other."

In all their determinations, the Americans had no intention of commencing a war;



but they resolved that if the English attempted to force them into submission, they would resist them. A number of troops were sent from England to Boston, and their commander placed them on Boston Neck, and fortified it for their security. He also seized the American military stores, at several places in the province, and had them conveyed to Boston. When winter approached, he could not get assistance to build a shelter for his troops, and no price that he offered would induce workmen to labour for them; this convinced him that all the people were of one mind. The winter passed away without any change which would cheer the Americans. A considerable quantity of military stores had been collected in the town of Concord, about eighteen miles from Boston. General Gage resolved to destroy them. On the night of the 18th of April, he sent Major Pitcairn, with a detachment of nine hundred men, for this purpose. They marched quietly, and several officers went before, to prevent any one on the road giving notice of their approach. Dr. Warren, however, managed to send a messenger from Boston, to give the information at Lexington, where the English troops arrived at five o'clock in the morning, and found April 19. a company of militia, consisting of seventy men, who were parading under arms. Ma-

jor Pitcairn rode up to them; and said, "Disperse, rebels; throw down your arms, and disperse." The soldiers at the same time ran up, huzzaing; some scattering guns were fired, which were followed by a general discharge. The firing was continued as long as any of the militia appeared: eight men were killed, and several wounded. The Americans had heretofore suffered and complained, but this was their first active attempt to escape from the unjust exercise of the power which the English possessed. The detachment proceeded to Concord; the commanding officer sent six companies of light infantry to take possession of the bridges which were beyond the town, while the main body were employed in destroying the stores in Concord. Some militia men, who were collected from that place, having orders not to give the first fire, approached one of the bridges as if to pass as common travellers.. They were fired on, and two men killed. The fire was returned, and the English were obliged to retreat with loss. The inhabitants of the surrounding country became alarmed by the fearful sounds. The wagoner left his team in the road; the farmer his plough in the unfinished furrow; the blacksmith threw down his hammer,—and the young and the old, the strong and the feeble, all rushed towards the sad scene. The king's troops were attacked in every

direction, and were driven back to Lexington, where they met a large detachment, with cannon, which had been sent to assist them in case they were resisted. They remained a short time in Lexington, and then recommenced their march. They were closely followed by the Americans, who assailed the invaders, until they arrived at sun-set on the common of Charlestown, and then passed over to Bunker's hill, where they were safe for the night, under the protection of their ships of war. The next morning they crossed over Charlestown ferry, to Boston.

The English forts at Ticonderoga and Crown Point, having the command of Lake George and Lake Champlain, it was thought very important to the Americans to get possession of them. A number of volunteers from Vermont and Connecticut, commanded by Colonel Ethan Allen and Colonel Arnold, marched against Ticonderoga, and surprised the garrison, which surrendered without firing a single gun. Colonel Seth Warren was sent to take possession of Crown Point, which he did without meeting  
May.  
with any resistance. When intelligence of these events was brought to Congress, they recommended removing the cannon and military stores to a place of greater safety, and directed that an account should be taken of them, "in order that they might be safely returned, when the restoration of

the former harmony between Great Britain and the Colonies, so ardently wished for by the latter, should render it prudent and consistent with the over-ruling law of self-preservation."

After considering all the circumstances of the scene at Lexington, Congress concluded that an American army must be formed for the defence of their country, and this resolve was made public by an address to the people of all the provinces. After relating the causes for their opposition to the English government, and the means that had been used without effect to obtain justice, they said, "By one statute it is declared, that Parliament can of right make laws to bind us in all cases whatsoever; not a single man of those who assume this power is chosen by us, or subject to our influence.

\* \* We gratefully acknowledge, as a signal instance of the divine favour towards us, that his providence would not permit us to be called into this severe controversy, until we were grown up to our present strength. We fight not for glory or for conquest. In our native land, in defence of the freedom that is our birth-right, for the protection of our property, acquired solely by the honest industry of our forefathers and ourselves, against violence actually offered, we have taken up arms."

Three more English generals arrived at

Boston, with troops, and offered pardon to all those who would lay down their arms and submit to the king, with the exception of two important Americans, Samuel Adams and John Hancock. This offer made the Americans more active, as it convinced them that there was no hope of safety but in preparation for defence.

As it was expected that General Gage would send troops into the surrounding country, the Americans resolved on raising entrenchments on a height near Boston, called Bunker's hill. A detachment of a thousand men, under the command of Colonel Prescott, was sent for that purpose; but by some mistake, they proceeded to another high piece of ground, called Breed's hill, where, with activity and quietness, they formed an entrenchment, before the dawn of day, undiscovered by the English ships, which lay quietly near them. As soon as the enemy saw this new work, they commenced a heavy cannonade upon it; but this did not prevent the Americans from continuing their labour. As this hill overlooked Boston, General Gage thought it necessary to drive the Americans from it; and for that purpose, he sent a detachment of about three thousand troops, commanded by General Howe. Two American generals, Warren and Pomeroy, joined their countrymen with as many more troops as made

their number amount to fifteen hundred.

June 17. The English advanced to attack the Americans, and while they were doing so, their general gave orders that Charlestown should be set on fire; it contained about five hundred houses, which were chiefly of wood;—the flames spread rapidly, so that in a short time, the whole town formed one great blaze. The inhabitants of Boston and the surrounding country were gazing on this awfully interesting scene, with anxious feelings for their countrymen on Breed's hill. The English troops advanced to within a hundred yards of them, before the Americans fired; and when they did so, the English fell back. By the exertions of their officers, they were again led forward, but a second time were driven back. A third time they were led up, and assisted by the firing from the ships and floating batteries, they attacked the Americans in three different directions, and almost battered down their works of defence. They had endeavoured to increase their security by taking the rails from the fences, and putting them in two rows, at a short distance from each other, and then filling the space between with hay. Their ammunition was soon spent, and finding that it would be vain to attempt longer to resist their powerful foes, they retreated from the hill, but claimed the victory, because they had lost less than one half of the

number which the British had lost in their attack. There is so much cause for sorrow connected with a victory in battle, that to a reflecting mind, there is no gladness in the sound; and English and Americans had reason to lament that sad disposition of nature "from whence come wars and fightings," and which can only be restrained by that "wisdom which descendeth from above, and is full of mercy, peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated."

When Congress had determined on forming an army, they unanimously agreed to appoint Washington the commander in chief;—and the steady firmness of his temper, the dignity of his manners, and the confidence which was felt in his integrity and patriotism, caused this choice to give satisfaction to all the people. When his appointment was made known to him by Congress, he modestly replied, "Though I am truly sensible of the high honour done me in this appointment, yet I feel great distress, from a consciousness that my abilities and military experience may not be equal to the extensive and important trust." The peaceful enjoyments of his comfortable home were to be given up, but no selfish desire of ease ever caused him to shrink from the performance of a duty which was to benefit others. It was the wish of his countrymen that he should accept this important part of



the arduous work they expected to be engaged in; and he did so, with an earnest desire not to disappoint their confidence, and an humble trust that he should have the blessing of God on his efforts to do well for his country. He would not have drawn his sword to gain the name of a conqueror, and he was willing to bear that of a soldier only, when by doing so, he could defend the helpless, or aid in obtaining justice for the oppressed. What he had been to his native province, in his youth, he was to be to his country, in the strength of his manhood. Being a patriot in all his feelings, he informed Congress that he would not consent to receive any compensation for his services, but that he would keep an account of his expenses, which they might defray. He bade his family farewell, and set off for Cambridge, in Massachusetts, which was the place appointed as the head quarters of the army. On the way, he received from the people constant proofs of the satisfaction his appointment occasioned; in Massachusetts,

July 3. he was met with affectionate attention, and was welcomed by the army with joy. He commenced immediately the difficult task of bringing the men into proper order. Their hands, which had been only accustomed to felling trees, striking the anvil, or guiding the plough, and to other peaceful and useful employments, could not



readily handle well a musket or a sword. They knew nothing of the discipline that was needful to make them useful as soldiers. They were fully resolved to defend their rights, but this spirit of freedom caused them to wish to do so in their own way, and they were not willing to submit to rules and directions; the patience of their commander was therefore severely tried. He had naturally a very strong temper, but in his boyhood he had determined to watch it and subdue it. When any occurrence raised his anger, he resolutely endeavoured to restrain it, and thus obeyed the Scripture precept given to warm tempers, "Be ye angry and sin not." He knew that he could not command others so as to have their respect, if by the indulgence of passion he proved that he could not command himself. In addition to the difficulty of regulating the army, he had the anxiety of knowing that they were very scantily supplied with powder and arms, as there was very little powder in the country, and the inhabitants of the different provinces did not wish to part with what they thought they might want to use for their own particular defence. Washington was very anxious to conceal this want from the English generals, and used every means possible to do so. His army was placed so as to blockade the English troops, who were stationed on Bunker's hill, Rox-

bury Neck, and in Boston. Knowing as he did the difficulty there would be in getting supplies for his men, he wished to make an attempt to drive the enemy from Boston at once; but his officers, on being consulted, were of the opinion, that the attempt would not be successful, and the two armies continued in the same situation for several months.

As it was known that the English were endeavouring to engage the inhabitants of Canada, and the Indians, to assist them in invading the provinces from that part of the country, Congress determined on sending troops there in time to prevent it; they sent them and they took possession of several forts. Washington resolved to send a detachment from his army to Quebec, and he gave the command of it to Colonel Arnold. The orders given to him were, to pass through the country, not as an enemy to the inhabitants of Canada, but as friends, and to check with severity every attempt to injure them; and to treat with respect their religious ceremonies; for, said Washington, "while we are contending for our own liberty, we should be very cautious of violating the rights of conscience in others, and should ever consider, with a true Christian spirit, that God alone is the judge of the hearts of men, and to him only in this case are they answerable." Arnold and his troops were

thirty-two days passing through a frightful wilderness, without seeing a house or a human being; they waded through swamps and toiled over mountains, and arrived at Quebec worn down with fatigue. Arnold expected to take Quebec by surprise, but information had been given of his approach, so that he was disappointed. General Montgomery, who had taken

Nov.

Montreal from the English, marched to join Arnold, and then endeavoured to prevail on the commander of Quebec to give it up without blood being shed; but the officer he sent with a flag of truce was fired on, and he then determined on attacking the town. The attack was bold but not successful, and in making it, the brave Montgomery lost his life. The blockade of Quebec was continued for some time without effect, and on hearing that an English fleet had arrived, the American officers concluded that it would be vain to expect success, and gave up the siege. Several engagements convinced the Americans, that their force was not sufficient to accomplish in Canada what they had expected; and the officers determined on retreating from it, before their men should be more reduced by unavailing sufferings.

At the time of these occurrences in the north, the southern provinces were not quiet. The governor of Virginia, assisted by ships of war, attempted to burn the town of Hamp-

ton; but he was prevented by the bravery of the people. He then collected his force at Norfolk. An American regiment of regulars, and two hundred minute men, marched for the defence of that place; they were attacked by the English, whom they soon forced to retreat, with the loss of many of their number, though the Americans did not lose one man. The governor took  
1776. refuge on board of a vessel; and  
January 1. on the night of the first of January, a heavy cannonade was commenced on the town from the ships, and some of the troops landed and set fire to the houses. As the Americans did not think that they could keep possession of Norfolk against the force of an English fleet, they made no efforts to extinguish the flames, but suffered them to rage, until all the town was consumed. After this the governor continued sailing up the rivers of Virginia for some time, burning houses and destroying plantations. A number of the inhabitants of the frontiers of the southern provinces, were inclined to favour the English, and formed themselves into companies; but they were met by the provincial parties, and obliged to fly in every direction. The governor of North Carolina had gone on board of a ship of war in the Cape Fear river. General Clinton, who was to command the English in the south, arrived in North Carolina, with a small force;

he did not think it prudent to use it there, and he determined on going to Charleston, in South Carolina. This intention was discovered, and all ranks of citizens began immediately to prepare for defence. A new fort, afterwards called fort Moultrie, in honour of its commander, was quickly built, on Sullivan's Island, which is at the mouth of the harbour. In the beginning of June, the British fleet anchored off the harbour of Charleston. Some American troops arrived from Virginia and North Carolina, and they were all commanded by General Lee. The streets of the city were barricaded; store-houses of great value were pulled down, and every possible means for defence were prepared. The English fleet was commanded by Sir Peter Parker, and consisted of two fifty-gun ships, four frigates, and four smaller armed vessels. On the 28th of June, they commenced firing on Fort Moultrie, at about 10 o'clock in the morning, and continued to do so for three hours; but the firing was returned from the fort with so much skill, that the ships were almost torn to pieces, and about 9 o'clock, with difficulty were moved off. The loss of the British in killed and wounded, exceeded two hundred; while that of the Americans was only ten killed and twenty-two wounded.

Thus did a feeble force of 375 regulars, and a few militia, in a half finished fort,

cripple and drive off, with little loss to themselves, a powerful and well commanded fleet. Truly they had cause to use the language of the devout Asa, and say, "Lord, it is nothing with thee to help, whether with many, or with them that have no power." A few days afterwards, all the English troops who had been landed, returned to the vessels, and the whole fleet sailed away for New-York, and the state of South Carolina was, for that time, delivered from the ravages of a foreign army.

This success, so providentially given to the Americans in the south, encouraged them greatly, and cheered the anxious mind of Washington, when he was distressed by the unfavourable accounts from the north. His army had been very much changed during the winter; many of the men had returned to their homes, and new recruits had taken their places; so that he was constantly obliged to bear the trial of patience in his endeavour to have a regular force. He was still of opinion, that an attempt to drive the enemy from Boston would be successful; in writing to Congress on the subject, he said, "I cannot help acknowledging, that I have many disagreeable sensations on account of my situation; for to have the eyes of the whole continent fixed on me, with anxious expectation of hearing of some great event, and to be restrained in every military opera-

tion, for want of the necessary means to carry it on, is not very pleasing; especially as the means used to conceal my weakness from the enemy, conceal it also from our friends, and add to their wonder."

Towards the latter end of February, having received a fresh supply of powder, he resolved on attempting to force General Howe from Boston, and commenced an attack early in March; a considerable detachment of Americans took possession of the heights of Dorchester, and in one night, though the ground was frozen, raised works, which in a great degree covered them from the shot of the enemy. It was then necessary for the English, either to drive the Americans from those heights, or to leave the town; the former was determined on, and troops were put on board of the ships to proceed up the river for that purpose. They were not, however, allowed by "Him who ruleth the winds and the waves" to succeed, for they were scattered by a violent storm, and entirely disabled from proceeding; and before they could be ready again to make the attempt, the Americans had made their works of defence so strong, that it was thought useless to try to force them. In expectation that most of the troops would be engaged in this attack, General Washington had made preparations for attacking those that remained in Boston; but this plan was



disappointed by the English general determining on leaving it, when he saw the Dorchester heights could not be taken. When General Washington knew of the intentions of General Howe, he thought it most probable that he would go from Boston to New-York, and he sent a large portion of his army there immediately.

On the 17th of March, the English entered their ships, and soon the whole fleet sailed; the rest of the American army then marched to New-York. The recovery of Boston caused great joy. When Washington entered it, he was received by the inhabitants as their deliverer from oppression; and in their public address to him, they expressed the wish, "May you still go on, approved by Heaven, and revered by all good men." The fleet sailed to Halifax, and remained there until June, and then left it, and early in July landed the troops on Staten Island.



## CHAPTER III.

When the war commenced, the Americans only thought of obtaining relief from the oppression of unjust laws; but when they heard that the English had hired foreign troops to assist in subduing them, and had engaged the tomahawk of the Indian against them, they had feelings which caused them to think of an entire separation from England, and of declaring themselves to be an independent people. A few bold ones, at first, spoke of this; and then it was soon openly talked of throughout all the provinces. The provincial assemblies gave an opinion in favour of it, and in June, 1776, it was proposed in Congress, by Richard Henry Lee, and seconded by John Adams. The resolution was in these words: "Resolved, that these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent states; and that all political connexion between them and the state of Great Britain is, and ought to be totally dissolved." Congress, at that time, held their meetings in the State-House, at Philadelphia, and the room in which they sat, has ever since been called "Independence Hall."

July 4. After much serious deliberation, they agreed to the resolution, unanimously, and the Declaration of Independence, which was prepared by a committee appointed for that purpose, was signed by fifty-four Americans, who were members of Congress. This was like the stripling David, defying the giant Goliath, and the same Almighty hand which guided the stone from David's sling, gave the Americans aid in the performance of the resolution which they had made, and which was concluded in these words: "For the support of this declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other, our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honour." This declaration was received with universal joy; and the yearly return of the important day on which it was signed, has ever since been hailed with gladness. And so it should be; but not with the riotous joy which disregards the laws of God and man. Temperate, and harmless recreations, should be mingled with grateful acknowledgments of the goodness of that all powerful, and all merciful Being, who gave us such cause for gladness.

About the time in which Independence was declared, the brother of General Howe arrived at Staten Island, with a large fleet, and a number of troops. General Washing-

ton had made every preparation in his power for defending New-York; but was soon convinced that he could not prevent the English ships from passing it up the Hudson river. While he was thus anxiously engaged, letters were sent from the commander of the fleet, addressed to the governors under the king; requesting them to make known to the people, that he had authority from the king to grant pardons to all those who would return to their duty; and that every person who would aid in persuading them to do so, should be rewarded. General Washington sent these papers immediately to Congress, who resolved to publish them. At the same time, General Howe sent an officer on shore, July 20. with a flag of truce, and a letter addressed to "George Washington, Esquire." He refused to receive it, as he considered it a disrespect to his countrymen, who had given him the title of "Commander in Chief" of their armies. Another letter was sent, directed to George Washington, &c. &c. &c. and the officer who brought it said, that the addition of &c. &c. &c. meant every thing that ought to follow the name. General Washington said they meant every thing, it was true, but they also might mean any thing; and he should refuse to receive a letter on public business, if it was directed to him as a private person. The officer assured

him, that no disrespect was intended; and that General Howe, and his brother, had been appointed by the king of England to "settle the unhappy dispute which had arisen." Washington told him, that he had no power from Congress to say any thing on that subject; but, from what he could learn, it was his opinion, that General Howe and his brother were only to grant pardons, and "those who had committed no fault, wanted no pardon; the Americans were only defending what they considered their just rights."

The English army consisted of about twenty-four thousand men, and was abundantly supplied with military stores, and a numerous fleet was ready to aid it. The American army, of about thirteen thousand men, for three different situations, was scantily furnished with arms; and Washington, after giving an account of its state to Congress, added: "These things are melancholy, but nevertheless true. I hope for better. Under every disadvantage, my utmost exertions shall be employed to bring about the great end we have in view. As far as I can judge, from the apparent dispositions of my troops, I shall have their support. The superiority of the enemy, and the expected attack, do not seem to have affected their spirits." A part of the army was on Long Island, the rest on York and Governor's

Islands, and Paulus-hook. Washington earnestly endeavoured to encourage his troops; he said, "The time is perhaps near at hand, which will probably determine whether Americans are to be freemen. The fate of unknown millions will depend, under God, on the courage and conduct of this army. Let us rely on the goodness of our cause, and the aid of the Supreme Being, in whose hands victory is, to animate and encourage us to great and noble actions."

General Howe landed his troops on Long Island, and the Americans prepared for being attacked; a detachment of them, which had been stationed to give notice of the approach of the enemy, was surrounded and seized; and this gave an opportunity to the English of advancing by a way that was very favourable for their attack,—which was made with so large a force, and in so many different directions, that it was not in the power of the Americans to resist with success, though they did so with bravery. General Washington passed over to Brooklyn, and saw, with deep sorrow, the destruction of his troops. He had no power to aid them in any other way than by his own exertions; for he saw, that if he brought over the rest of his troops from New-York, the superior force of the enemy would overpower them all, and thus the fate of his country be at

once decided. The English encamped in front of the remaining Americans, and Washington determined on endeavouring to save them by withdrawing them from Long Island. He formed his plan, and when the night came, under his directions, and assisted by his exertions, all the troops and military stores,

July 29. with a great part of the provisions, and all the artillery, were carried over to New-York in safety. A kind providence favoured the Americans with a night so dark, and a morning so foggy, that though their enemies were within a few hundred yards of them, they did not know of the movement they were making, until they were beyond the reach of their guns. From the commencement of the action, on the morning of the twenty-seventh of July, until the troops had crossed safely, on the twenty-ninth, their anxious commander had not closed his eyes; and was almost all the time on horseback, directing and aiding them. He did not think of his own preservation, until the last boat was leaving the shore, and he then placed himself in it, with a sad heart. In a letter to a friend, relating the distressing account of the attack, he said, "This misfortune happened in a great measure by two detachments of our people, who were posted in two roads leading through a wood, to intercept the enemy in their march,"

suffering a surprise and making a precipitate retreat."

This event discouraged the American army so much, that, as General Washington wrote to Congress, their situation was "truly distressing," and he had to suffer the pain of seeing whole regiments return in despair to their homes.

The first use which General Howe made of his success, was to send a message to Philadelphia, that though he could not treat with Congress as a body, he had full power to settle the contro- Aug. 27.

versy upon terms that would be very favourable; and that he would meet any of the members in their private character, at any place they would appoint. Congress informed him, that being the representatives of a free and independent people, they could not send any of their members to speak with him in their private character; but that as they were desirous of peace, they would send a committee to understand from him what offers he was permitted to make. Three members, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and Edward Rutledge, were appointed by Congress to visit Staten Island, where they were very civilly received by the English command- Sept. 11.

er; but he told them, that he could not consider them as a committee from Congress. They told him, their business was to hear



what he had to propose, and that he might consider them in what light he pleased, but that they could not feel themselves as bearing any other character than the one in which they had been sent. He then entered on a long discourse, but made no proposal for peace; except on condition that the colonies should return to their obedience to the government of England; and that in case of their submission, if they had any just causes for complaint, they should be withdrawn. The committee replied in a manner which convinced him that such terms could not be listened to; and, on his saying he was sorry to find "that no accommodation could take place," they remained no longer, but returned to give an account to Congress of what had been proposed. No further notice was taken of his proposals, and the preparations for attack and defence were continued.

From the movements of the English army and fleet, General Washington found that it was their intention to surround New-York, and force him into a battle. The depressed state of his army convinced him, that this would be destructive to his troops, and he thought it would be right to withdraw them from New-York. In writing to Congress, he said, "On every side there is a choice of difficulties. \* \* On our part the war should be defensive; we should, on all occasions, avoid a general action; nor put any thing to



the risk, unless compelled by necessity, into which we ought never to be drawn."

On consulting together, the officers of the army agreed, that it was best to give up New-York, and Washington employed himself actively in removing the military stores to a place of safety. He had urged the inhabitants to remove the women and children from it, when the enemy first appeared on Staten Island. Sept. 12.

When the American troops were withdrawn from New-York, they were stationed at Kingsbridge, and the enemy took possession immediately of the city. The situation of the American army was then very distressing to Washington; the time for which many of the soldiers had agreed to serve was almost spent, and he had but a faint expectation that others would be soon engaged in their places: he wrote a long letter to Congress on the subject, Sept. 24. urging them to make immediate endeavours to keep up the army. He commenced his letter in words which show his anxiety and modest faithfulness: "From the hours allotted to sleep, I will borrow a few moments to convey my thoughts on sundry important matters to Congress. I shall offer them with that sincerity which ought to characterize a man of candour, and with the freedom which may be used in giving useful information, without incurring the imputation of

presumption." On receiving this long and very serious letter, Congress resolved to attend to the counsel which it contained, and appointed committees to make exertions for raising more troops.

General Howe wished to prevent the American army having intercourse with the New-England states, and he marched with troops to endeavour to surround the principal division of the army. But General Washington was too watchful to permit him to succeed in doing so. Several actions were fought by small detachments from each army, but he carefully avoided a general battle; except in one instance, when he was very favourably situated on the hills, near the White Plains, in the state of New-York; the English general declined it then, and changed his plans, and retired slowly down the North river, to enter New-Jersey. When Washington discovered his intention, he wrote to the governor of that state, to inform him of it, and to General Green, who was placed there with some American troops; and he requested them to make every preparation possible for defence. He then placed all the troops that he could spare, in the forts of the Highlands, in the state of Nov. 13. New-York, and passed over into New-Jersey with his little army. Cornwallis, an English general, followed with a large force, and Washington moved on to New-Brunswick,

where he stopped. There he had the mortification to see his army made still less by many of the soldiers, whose time had expired, leaving him. He again wrote to the governor for some aid, but he had not the power to give it. He wrote urgently to General Lee, (who commanded the eastern troops,) to join him as quickly as possible. This sad situation brought into exercise all his wisdom and firmness. His army was reduced to about three thousand men; and they were scantily armed, poorly clad, and many of them barefooted. The army that pressed after them was more than double their number; well armed, well clad and fed, and in high spirits.

The contrast, between the splendid appearance of the English, and the sad and ragged condition of the Americans, seemed to make the triumph of the former certain.

Afflicted but not dismayed by the cheerlessness of his prospects, Washington did not cease for a moment to act with animation; and encouraged his few troops with expressions of confidence that they should not be delivered into the hands of their enemies. He remained at New-Brunswick until they were in sight, and then moved on towards the Delaware river, and soon succeeded in having the military stores and scanty baggage of his army

Dec. 2.

conveyed across, and the men who were sick sent to Philadelphia.

The citizens determined to give all the aid in their power to Washington, and fifteen hundred of them marched immediately to join him. He had sent twelve hundred men back to Princeton, with the hope, that by thus appearing to advance towards the enemy, he might delay them, and give some encouragement to the inhabitants of New-Jersey. When the troops from Philadelphia joined him, he marched towards Princeton, but heard that Cornwallis had received a large addition to his troops, and was advancing them by different roads to surround

Dec. 8. him. Again he was obliged to retreat, and cross the Delaware. He secured all the boats, and broke down all the bridges along the Jersey shore, and placed his army in such a manner as to guard, as well as possible, all the fording places.

As the last of the Americans crossed the river, the English army appeared. The main part of it was at Trenton, and detachments above and below, so as to make it quite uncertain where they intended to attempt crossing the river. Washington sent officers to Philadelphia, with directions to form lines of defence there, and to endeavour to secure the military stores. He gave particular orders, to all the officers of his little army, to enable

them to know how to act, in case the enemy attempted to cross the river. One of his officers said, with despondency, "How far must we go on retreating?" "To Virginia," said Washington; "and if followed there, over the Alleghany Mountains, and try what we can do there."

General Lee advanced slowly with his troops, and imprudently slept at a distance of three miles from his army, in a farm house, at about twenty miles from the enemy. Information of this was given; and an English officer sent a company well mounted, who reached the farm house Dec. 13. and surrounded it, before General Lee had left it; he was carried to the English army, and considered as a deserter from the British service. General Sullivan, the next in command to Lee, immediately hastened the march of the troops, and soon joined General Washington.

All the attempts of the English to get boats to cross the river failed, and their general determined to place them in quarters for the winter, which had commenced. Some were placed in Princeton, and the rest at the principal towns of that part of New-Jersey.

Washington thought, that it was not probable Cornwallis would remain in winter shelter longer than until the ice should be strong enough for his troops to cross it,

and he employed his anxious and active mind in reflecting on some plan for stopping the success of the foes of his country. While they were comfortably housed, the Americans were exposed to the wintry blasts; for not many could be sheltered in farm houses near enough to each other; and those who could not, made the frozen ground their bed and their knapsacks their pillows. No doubt many who thus lay, offered fervent and humble prayers to God, who suits his mercies to the necessities of all who honour him; and beneath the care which he has promised to those who put their trust in him, they slept soundly, though they were unsheltered.

When General Washington reflected on the dispersed situation of the English troops, he said, "Now is the time to clip their wings, when they are so spread." For this purpose he formed a bold plan. He separated his army into three divisions. One, consisting of about two thousand four hundred men, commanded by himself, was to cross the Delaware, at M'Konky's Ferry, about nine miles above Trenton, and then to march down in two divisions; one taking the river road, and the other the Pennington road; both of which lead into the town; the one at the west end, and the other towards the north. The second division of the army, commanded by General Irvine, was to cross

at Trenton Ferry, and secure the bridge below the town, so as to prevent the enemy from escaping by that way. The third, commanded by General Cadwallader, was to cross at Bristol, and make an attack on the troops posted at Burlington.

Christmas night was appointed for the different divisions to cross the river. As the night approached, a Dec. 25. driving sleet fell, and the cold became severe. Washington, with the division which he commanded, was the greater part of the night struggling amidst the ice, which was driven in fearful wildness; rain and snow fell in a mingled shower, and it was four o'clock, in the morning of the twenty-sixth, before they succeeded in reaching the New-Jersey shore. One division then marched, as had been planned, by the river road, and the other by the Pennington road. Washington arrived at Trenton exactly at eight o'clock, and drove in the outguards of the enemy, and in three minutes, he heard the other division doing the same.

Colonel Rawle, the English commander, paraded his troops to meet the Americans, but he was soon mortally wounded, and his troops then attempted to move off. Washington sent a detachment to meet them as they were retreating, and finding themselves surrounded, they laid down their arms.

The divisions of the American army



which were commanded by Generals Irvine and Cadwallader, had not been able to cross the river amid the driving ice; and as that part of the plan which they were to perform failed, Washington concluded it would not be prudent to remain with his small force where he should probably be soon attacked by the collected force of his enemies; he therefore re-crossed the Delaware with his prisoners, and the military stores that he had taken. One thousand was the number of the prisoners. Two American soldiers had been killed, and two or three wounded, and one officer.

This bold and successful attack, occasioned great astonishment to the English army; as they had believed the Americans to be in a state too feeble to attempt resistance, whenever it should suit them to leave their comfortable quarters to attack them.

Cornwallis had gone to New-York, but he returned immediately to New-Jersey, with more troops, to regain the ground which had been thus unexpectedly taken from him. The officer who commanded at Burlington, marched his troops to Princeton, and the division of the American army which was opposite, crossed over and took possession of Burlington.

Washington resolved not to remain idle, and he passed again over to Trenton, to endeavour to recover at least a part of New-



Jersey. The English collected in full force at Princeton, and formed there some works of defence. Washington collected all his troops together at Trenton, and the next day the English army approached it. He then crossed the Assumpinck creek, which runs through the town, and drew up his army beside it. The enemy attempted to cross it, but were prevented, and they halted and kindled their night fires.

1777.

Jan. 2.

The situation of Washington was a very dangerous one. If he remained as he was, he was almost sure of being attacked at the dawn of day, by a force far superior to his own; and he thought that the destruction of his little army must be the consequence. To pass the Delaware was almost impossible, from the state it was in, with masses of drifting ice. Wisdom to plan, and strength to act, was given to him by the mighty God of armies.

The night fires of the English burned brightly, and Washington directed his troops to light their fires close along the edge of the creek. The bright close blaze became as a screening cloud between their enemies and them, while it was as a pillar of fire to light them in the silent preparations which their commander directed them to make for moving away.

That important night was particularly marked by the favour of Divine Providence;

and in after years, many a pious father, seated in his comfortable home, and surrounded by the children for whose rights he had that night been struggling, delighted, with devout thankfulness, to tell them, how the clouds, and the winds, were commanded by their great Ruler to aid the Americans.

Several days of soft weather had made the roads very deep; a light rain had been falling, but suddenly the clouds were driven off by a strong west wind, which was so cold that the roads were frozen by it, and became like a pavement, over which Washington and his little army moved in silence, towards Princeton, and arrived within a short distance of it, early in the morning.

An advanced party of the Americans were  
Jan. 3. met by some English troops, who were on their way towards Trenton; they attacked the Americans, and threw them into confusion. Washington rode on with speed, and placed himself between the enemy and his troops, and by his example and commands, restored them to order. He was between both parties as they fired, but the protecting shield of his Creator was again on every side, to preserve him from the weapons of destruction. He entered Princeton, and after a short action, took possession of it, and secured three hundred prisoners.

After the action, a militia officer, (who

never turned away from the complaints of a suffering fellow being; whether friend or foe,) in passing where some dead bodies were stretched, heard a moan; he stopped to listen, and in a few moments discovered the wounded sufferer who uttered it. He raised him tenderly in his arms, and asked if he could relieve him; the wounded man faintly said, "No, it was too late," and then made an effort to speak his own name, and that of an English officer, and added, "Take my watch, and send it to him; take my razor from my knapsack, and keep it, as the gift of a grateful, dying man." His eyes closed in death, and his request was faithfully performed. His gift was kept with care, and in after days, shown by its owner with a satisfactory recollection of the confidence of a dying enemy.

The same officer, in writing to his family an account of the battle at Princeton, said, "I would wish to say a few words respecting the actions of that truly great man, General Washington, but it is not in my power to convey any just ideas of him. I shall never forget what I felt, when I saw him brave all the dangers of the field, his important life hanging as it were by a single hair, with a thousand deaths flying around him. I thought not of myself. He is surely Heaven's peculiar care."

The British troops at Trenton were pre-

pared to attack the Americans by the light of the dawn; but when it came, they discovered that the expected prey had escaped, and they soon heard the sound of their cannon at Princeton. Cornwallis immediately marched to New-Brunswick, where he had valuable stores of baggage and ammunition, and he was close to the American army before it could leave Princeton.

Again was Washington surrounded with perplexing perils. His wearied troops had been one night without sleep, and some of them two nights. The march had been fatiguing and painful to the soldiers, many of whose bare feet left traces of blood to mark their path, and the cold was piercing to those who were thinly clad. Fearing an attack in this condition from the English army, which was so much larger, and not wearied by fatiguing marches and loss of rest, he gave up his plan of going to New-Brunswick; and breaking down all the bridges over the creek between that place and Princeton, he moved to Pluckemin, where his troops rested. Cornwallis marched to New-Brunswick, and began to move his military stores to a place of greater safety.

The suffering state of the Americans, from want of tents, clothes, and blankets, induced their commander to determine on putting them under shelter for the rest of the

winter; and he marched them for this purpose to Morristown.

The unexpected and successful attacks made at Trenton and Princeton, by an army that was thought to be conquered, saved Philadelphia for that winter; and revived the spirits of the Americans so much, that the difficulty of raising troops for the next season, was lessened in all the states.

In compliance with the advice of Washington, Congress had resolved to enlist soldiers who would consent to serve while the war continued. This was very satisfactory to him; he had suffered so much from the short enlistments, by which his army had often been reduced when he most needed a strong force. When the American army had retreated through New-Jersey, the inhabitants were so sure of its destruction, that they thought it would be useless to make any attempts to defend themselves; but after the successful engagements at Trenton and Princeton, they were so cheered, that they collected in large companies, and the militia became very active in assisting to confine the English to Amboy and New-Brunswick, where they were stationed when Washington led his army to Morristown.

Through the period of universal depression, Congress had acted with firmness, and an unchanged resolution to trust the event of the contest to Divine Providence, and

adhere to, the Independence they had declared. Supposing that the enemy would advance to Philadelphia, they removed to Baltimore, and made efforts to encourage their countrymen and lead them to persist in what seemed to be an almost hopeless cause. They advised each state to appoint a day of humiliation and prayer, to implore God to forgive their sins as a people, and assist them by his favour in their day of trouble. And they soon had reason to praise him for giving them cause to feel, that "though cast down," they were "not forsaken."

While the Americans were in Morristown, their number was so small, that it was difficult for Washington to keep up the appearance of an army; but he sent out small detachments to show themselves in different directions; and with the assistance of the New-Jersey militia, succeeded in keeping the enemy from again overspreading the country. As the spring advanced, and new troops were raised, there was a difficulty in assembling them as the commander-in-chief wished; for the English had possession of the ocean, and so could attack any state in the union; and each one desired to be defended. This could not be done, without separating the troops into small divisions, and placing them distant from each other. Washington possessed that solid judgment which makes

the best use of small means; and he determined to prepare in the surest manner that could be effected for defending the eastern states; the highlands of New-York, where it was very important to preserve the forts, and Philadelphia, which seemed to be the object of Cornwallis. When he had placed troops for this purpose, he formed his own camp at Middlebrook, in New-Jersey, with not quite six thousand men.

Early in June, the English army was increased by troops from New-York, and the commander moved them in different directions, for the purpose of drawing Washington from his camp to a battle; but he was too wise to be led into the danger, which would have been almost certain destruction to his small army. He continued watching the movements of his enemy with anxiety. Sometimes they appeared as if intending to go to the north, and then moved towards the south. Washington kept his troops posted on the heights, in front of his camp, always ready in case of an attack. He wrote to General Arnold his opinion, that it was the intention of the enemy to destroy his army, and get possession of Philadelphia, but that he would endeavour to prevent the first part of the plan being successful; and if they moved towards Philadelphia, he would be close after them to do every thing in his power to delay them.

June. The English commander, finding that he could not draw Washington from his camp, determined on removing his own troops from New-Jersey, and taking them on board of the fleet to the Chesapeake or Delaware. Washington took advantage of this, and moved his army for the purpose of following the enemy cautiously. They had passed over to Staten Island, but their commander suddenly resolved on returning to endeavour to get possession of the situation Washington had left, who immediately moved back, and prevented the

success of this plan. The whole  
June 30. English army then crossed to Staten Island, and entered the fleet.

At that time, Washington heard a circumstance that gave him satisfaction. An English general, named Prescott, commanded troops on Rhode Island; a militia officer, named Barton, with a small party, passed ten miles by water without being observed by the ships of war; and then landed within a mile of the place where they knew General Prescott slept. They quietly seized the guards, and took the general from his bed, and conveyed him in safety to their own quarters. The success of this bold attempt gave great joy; because it was expected that the English would consent to give up General Lee for General Prescott.

On receiving an account that the English



fleet had sailed from New-York, the American army was moved towards Philadelphia.

The English had a large force at Quebec, commanded by General Burgoyne. Sir William Howe wrote to him, that though he seemed to be moving towards the south, it was his intention to turn towards Boston, which he meant to attack, assisted by Burgoyne's troops. This letter was given to General Putnam, by a man, who said he had been directed to take it to Quebec. Putnam sent it immediately to General Washington. When he read the letter, he said he was certain it was written with the intention that it should fall into his hands to deceive him; and it convinced him that the enemy would soon be near to Philadelphia; but knowing that the American army in the north was a feeble one, he proved the patriotism of his feelings by lessening his own force to assist them. The real advantage of his countrymen, and not the acquirement of fame for himself, was the motive which always ruled his actions as an officer.

He called out the militia of Maryland, Pennsylvania, and the northern part of Virginia, and then marched with his own troops towards the head of Elk river, in Maryland.

A militia officer, in writing to his family an account of the appearance of the army, as it passed through Philadelphia, said, "As Washington, the most dignified and respect-

able of mortals, marching at the head of the American army, passed, the tories hid their heads and trembled, whilst the friends of freedom appeared on each side of the streets, and bowed with gratitude and respect to the great man; and were I to judge of his feelings, I think he would not have exchanged his situation for all that kings in their profusion could bestow."

As Washington advanced towards Elk river, he heard that the enemy were landing, whose whole force consisted of  
Aug. 25. about eighteen thousand men, in good health, high spirits, and well trained. Washington's force was about eleven thousand, and not all of these were supplied with arms.

He was desirous to place his army in the most favourable situation for meeting their powerful foes, and he moved to the BRANDYWINE CREEK, in the state of Delaware, and took possession of the high grounds, extending southward from Chad's Ford. He knew that Philadelphia could not be saved without a successful battle; and that Congress, and the people generally, expected that he would not give it up without an attempt to prevent the enemy from possessing it. In making his preparations for an attack, he was deceived by a false account of the number of the enemy, and of their movements as they were advancing, and was therefore

disappointed in the most important part of the plan he had formed for meeting them. When they drew near, he used great efforts to encourage his troops, and on the 11th of September, an action commenced, which was very severe. Sir William Howe was successful in driving the Americans from the ground, but they were not too much discouraged to risk another action for the safety of Philadelphia.

Washington allowed them one day for rest, and then marched on the Lancaster road, to a spot near the Warren Tavern, about twenty three miles from Philadelphia. In a few hours he heard that the enemy were approaching, and he prepared to meet them. The dreadful work of destruction was commencing, when a powerful rain began to fall, and became so violent that the arms of the Americans were soon unfit for use; a retreat was absolutely necessary, and as Washington was convinced that his army was not in a state to gain success in an action, he determined to avoid being attacked. He directed that all the military stores in the city should be removed to a place of safety, so that very little public property might fall into the hands of the enemy, who, headed by Cornwallis, entered Philadelphia on the 26th of September.

Sir William Howe drew all his troops into Philadelphia, to employ them in re-

moving the obstructions which had been placed in the Delaware river, to prevent his ships from passing up to the city. Washington had placed troops in Fort Mifflin, on Mud Island, and in a redoubt a few miles from Philadelphia, at Red Bank, a high bluff, so called from the colour of the sand on it. Count Donop, a German officer, was sent with a detachment of Hessians of about twelve hundred men, to attack the fort at Red Bank, which was commanded by Colonel Greene. On the evening of the 22d of October, Donop appeared before the fort; Greene, with his garrison of five hundred men, received him bravely; and the assault and defence were both spirited and obstinate. Donop was killed, and the second in command, Colonel Wingerode, fell at the same time; the oldest remaining officer then drew off his troops, and returned to Philadelphia. The loss of the assailants was four hundred, and of the defenders, thirty-two killed and wounded. A continued struggle was kept up for more than six weeks, to prevent the English in Philadelphia having free communication with their fleet, but at length they succeeded.

Several officers had been wounded at the battle of Brandywine, one of whom was General La Fayette. He had left France, his native land, to come to America, and risk his life and spend his fortune in the

cause of liberty. He was only nineteen years of age, when he gave up a gay scene of youthful pleasures to enter on one of dangerous toils. The American commissioners who were in France, honestly told him of the depressed state of the American army, and of the sufferings that he would be exposed to; this did not change, but fixed his generous intencion, and he hastened his preparations to cross the ocean, and make known to Congress his purpose, and arrived in Charleston, early in the year 1777. They welcomed with respect this brave friend of their country, and gave him the commission of a major-general in their army. His disinterested conduct, and amiable character, made Washington his friend; and he could not know and be near to Washington, without becoming attached to him. Their friendship was sincere, warm, and steady.

Thus, in his first visit to our country, La Fayette was welcomed as a friend to the cause of liberty; and his determination to share in the toils and dangers of the Americans, in their struggle to obtain it, was as lasting as it was ardent, and not like the bright morning cloud which soon passes away. And when, in August of the year 1824, he again visited our country, to behold the prosperity with which the God of nations has blessed it, the joyful and grateful manner in which he was received through-

out the United States, proved that Americans had not forgotten his generous services. Old soldiers grasped his friendly hand with a welcome of affectionate gladness. Children pressed around him to share the kind notice of his eye; and all the people were of one mind in desiring to show him some token of grateful respect.

## CHAPTER IV.

While Washington kept up the contest in the middle states, very interesting events were passing in the northern states.

A plan had been formed by the British government, for sending an army to pass from Canada to the Hudson river, by the way of the lakes, and to take possession of all the American forts. General Burgoyne had the command of this army, and he engaged several Indian warriors, who thirsted for blood and plunder, to join him. A fleet was ready on the lakes to assist him. When these preparations were known, the people were filled with terror; the fear of the tomahawk and scalping-knife added greatly to their dread of the power of the English. General Burgoyne made a war speech to his ferocious allies, the Indians; they listened attentively, but his charge to refrain from cruelty was not remembered, when they had the power to indulge their natural dispositions.

Ticonderoga was commanded by General St. Clair. On the 1st of July, Burgoyne prepared to attack the fort, and his force was so powerful, and so well arranged, that Ge-

neral St. Clair was convinced that resistance would ensure the destruction of all his troops, and he determined on withdrawing secretly.

July 5. Orders were given to march out quietly, and set nothing on fire; but this order was not obeyed, and a house was soon in flames, which served as a signal to the enemy, who immediately entered the fort, and fired on the retreating troops, and then followed them and attacked them with so much ardour, that they were in a short time reduced to a very small number.

General Schuyler had been advancing from Stillwater with troops, when he heard of the retreat of St. Clair, and he then used great efforts to obtain a larger force, that he might stop the progress of the enemy. St. Clair continued retreating, closely pursued, until at length he joined General Schuyler, who had returned with his troops to Stillwater.

When General Washington heard the sad news from the north, he wrote to General Schuyler, "This stroke is indeed severe; but notwithstanding things at present wear a dark and gloomy aspect, I hope a spirited opposition will check the progress of General Burgoyne's arms, and that the confidence derived from success, will hurry him into measures that will in their consequences be favourable to us. We should never despair. Our situation has been unpromising, and has



changed for the better. So, I trust, it will again. If new difficulties arise, we must only put forth new exertions."

After taking Ticonderoga, Burgoyne sent a part of his army up the lake, to Skeensborough, where they destroyed the American flotilla and a considerable quantity of military stores.

The success of Burgoyne had the effect which Washington had hoped for. He was so confident of conquering by his well ordered troops, that he determined on dividing his army, and sending detachments in different directions, that he might overrun a larger portion of the country at once. He sent a detachment of five hundred English and one hundred Indians to seize the military stores at the town of Bennington, in Vermont. General Starke attacked and entirely routed these troops; the greater part of them were killed Aug. 16. or taken prisoners; a few escaped into the woods. Other troops sent by Burgoyne arrived, and met their flying comrades. They were attacked by the Americans, and obliged to give up their baggage and artillery, and save themselves by retreating under cover of the shade of night.

In this action the Americans gained one thousand stand of arms from the enemy, and the report of their killed and wounded was

seven hundred, and of Americans, one hundred.

These sanguinary battles are not recited to fill the mind with a love of scenes which should strike us with horror at the dreadful result produced by human passions. They are facts, however, connected with our country's struggle for liberty; and, no doubt, such signal success encouraged greatly the hearts of those who stood up for its defence.

General Gates took the command of the northern army. General Washington had sent a detachment of riflemen from his own army, and had directed all the troops that were in Massachusetts, to join them; and General Gates with this force met Burgoyne at Stillwater, where a battle was fought which was very severe, and Sept. 19. neither army could claim the victory; but it was an action in which the Indians became tired, and deserted in great numbers, so that it was in reality of great importance to the Americans.

General Burgoyne moved on towards Saratoga, and General Gates followed him. Burgoyne, as if disposed to destroy the country which he could not conquer, set fire to all the dwelling houses in his way, and reduced them to ashes,—broke down all the bridges, and endeavoured to stop up the way, to delay his pursuers; but the Americans

were not long in surmounting such difficulties.

General Gates, anticipating the course that Burgoyne would take, placed his own troops in such situations as at length entirely surrounded the army of the enemy. This advantage would have been lost, if it had not been for a remarkable interposition of a favouring providence. General Gates received information, that the main body of the enemy had moved off, and that only a small part remained in their camp, with their heavy baggage, to follow as soon as possible. He resolved directly to attack the camp, and his officers prepared to do so. One division had crossed the Sa-  
ratoga creek, which ran between

Oct. 11.

the Americans and the camp of the English, and another was just entering the water, when the officer who led it saw an English soldier crossing; he directed him to be brought to him, and found he was a deserter, and learned from him, that all the English army were at the camp, and that troops were placed behind some brushwood, ready to fire on the Americans, who were expected. The division which had passed the creek was immediately recalled, and the orders for an attack countermanded.

To deprive Burgoyne of his only hope of escape up the Hudson, General Gates ordered troops to guard all the fords, and de-

send them until his army should join them. General Burgoyne used every means to effect an escape, but his conquering course was run. He made a proposal to General Gates to spare the loss of lives, and was answered, that it was the desire of the Americans to do so, but that they expected his whole army would consider themselves as prisoners of war. General Burgoyne rejected this proposal with firmness; and General

Oct. 17. Gates then agreed to suffer his troops to march out of their camp, when they had laid down their arms. They were not to serve again in the United States, unless exchanged, but were to be permitted to march to Boston, and from there to return to England.

This unexpected deliverance from a numerous and fearfully destructive army, was to America as a sunny spot in a darkly clouded sky; and the hopes of the people were revived to a strong confidence that they had the favour of God, and might take to themselves the promise, "In war he shall redeem thee from the power of the sword."

When the important event was known in Pennsylvania, some of the officers of the army were so elated by it, that they were anxious immediately to make an attack on Philadelphia, and the people generally approved of the rash plan. Many, who only looked on while their countrymen were toiling, thought

that they knew better than Washington how to conduct the war, and they were loud in their talk on the subject.

Washington knew well the condition of both armies. His steady mind was not dazzled by the idea of the praise he should gain by success, and he persevered in resisting public clamour, when he knew that by yielding to it he should endanger the interests of his country. His unyielding virtue saved his army for more important services. He was always in the best state of preparation for meeting an attack that he could possibly effect; but was resolved not to commence one.

Intelligence was brought to him that movements were made by the enemy in the city, which seemed to prove that they were preparing to march out of it; and he heard, that General Howe said, he would drive him beyond the mountains.

It has been said that this information was given by a female, named Lydia Darrah, who resided in Second below Spruce Street, opposite to General Howe's head-quarters, in Philadelphia. Two of the British officers chose a back chamber in her house, as a secure place to hold private conversations in; and on the 2d of December, they told her they would be there at seven o'clock, and remain late, and desired that she and all her family would go to bed early. She thought something that would be important to the Americans

was to be talked of, and she placed herself in a situation to overhear what was said, and heard that all the British troops were to march out in the evening of the 4th, to surprise General Washington in his camp. Supposing it to be in her power to save the lives of hundreds of her countrymen, she was determined to try to carry this intelligence to General Washington. She told her family she would go to Frankford, to the mill, where she always got her flour; and she had no difficulty in getting permission from General Howe to pass the troops on the lines. Leaving her bag at the mill, she hastened towards the American camp, and met an American officer, named Craig, whom she knew. To him she told the secret, and made him promise not to betray her, as her life might in that case be taken by the British. Craig hastened to General Washington with the information, and Lydia returned home with her flour.

General Howe marched on the 4th, but  
Dec. found Washington expecting him; and disappointed, he encamped within three miles of the Americans. An action was then expected by Washington, and he prepared for it.

One day passed in which small detachments from each army attacked each other, and then all remained again at rest. Another day was spent in the same manner,

and Washington employed himself in giving directions to every division of his army, and in encouraging them to resist with calm bravery. General Howe suddenly broke up his camp, and marched his troops back to the city; his doing so was a proof that he could not feel confident of a victory, when the Americans were in a favourable situation for meeting him.

## CHAPTER V.

As the severe cold increased, the sufferings of his troops caused Washington great anxiety; and he determined on seeking some better shelter for them than that of tents. He could not separate them with safety, and he determined on moving to a place called the Valley Forge, on the west side of the Schuylkill, about twenty four miles distant from Philadelphia. The march of the army might have been traced by the marks of many naked, bleeding feet, on the frozen earth. The half perished men erected log huts, to shelter them from the piercing blasts, but their clothing was light; and when they laid down to rest, they had not blankets to cover them on their bare earthy beds. The difficulty of getting provisions was so great, that they were often many days without bread, or any other kind of food, than that of a scanty portion of potatoes, and nuts which they could gather from under the dried leaves in the woods. The regular order of an encampment was kept up, and there was no change except that of huts for tents.

In the year 1827, on that spot were col-



lected several thousands of the inhabitants of this now free and prosperous land, to celebrate with "the voice of mirth and gladness," the ingathering of a rich harvest, given to them by that bounteous God who "clothes their pastures with flocks, covers over their valleys with corn, and crowns the year with his goodness."

What a contrast was the scene of that harvest home, to that of the hut encampment! Should an American think of it, and not acknowledge with gratitude that it must have been the mighty hand of the great Ruler of the universe, that led those patriots through a wilderness of sufferings to the purchase of a land of freedom and prosperity for their children; and acknowledging this, can any one refuse to praise him for his goodness, and "offer unto him the sacrifice of thanksgiving."

Washington heard that he was blamed for seeking even the hut-shelter for his suffering troops, and he said, "It is much easier to censure by a good fire side, in a comfortable room, than to occupy a cold, bleak hill, and sleep under frost and snow, without either clothes or blankets."

Restless, busy bodies, raised a report that he was wearied of his situation, and intended to resign it; in a letter to a friend he said, "I can assure you, that no person ever heard me drop an expression that had a ten-

dency to resignation. I have said, and I do still say, that there is not an officer in the United States that would return to the sweets of domestic life with more heart-felt joy than I should. But I would have this declaration accompanied by these sentiments, that while the public are satisfied with my endeavours, I mean not to shrink from the cause; but the moment her voice, not that of faction, calls upon me to resign, I shall do so with as much pleasure as ever wearied traveller retired to rest."

The faithful wife of Washington had no family to need her care at home, and when he was absent and deprived of its comforts, that home was cheerless to her. When it was possible, she was with him to share his hardships, and endeavour to contribute to cheer his sad prospects, by her attentions and expressions of calm, firm confidence that better days would soon come. At the hut-camp his table was furnished with no better food than could be procured for his troops; and his wife then shared his hard bread and few potatoes. Her willingness to do so, and her cheerful conduct, assisted to enliven the desponding, and encourage the cast down. Through the trying scenes of the long contest, the American women proved that they possessed patriotic feelings, by doing all in their power to aid their fathers,

sons, and brothers, in the defence of their country.

They actively endeavoured to supply them with clothing, and to free them from anxiety for the safety of themselves and their children, whom they were obliged to leave unprotected. An extract from a letter, written in the gloomy December of 1776, will be a specimen of the sentiments expressed generally by American wives. "The country here is all in confusion; the militia are to march in the morning. I will send a letter, but know not where it will find you. God grant you health, and preserve you through this fatiguing campaign. I feel little for myself, when I think of the dangers to which you and so many of my brave countrymen are exposed. But I will not repine—God is all sufficient. I would not have you here, when your country calls, if one wish could bring you. Feel no care for me and our children; through the mercy of our God, I have been enabled to conquer my fears, and do hope in his providence to meet you again in a better day. I think a decisive stroke must soon be given; God grant that it may be in our favour."

Often obliged to conceal themselves and their children, in barns and wood-thickets, from the parties of English soldiers which overran the country, many were the fervent prayers which the American women breath-

ed from those hiding places to the ever present God, whom they trusted would protect them. In his own good time, he fulfilled to them his promise, "My people shall dwell in a peaceable habitation."

While his army were in their log huts, Washington was not idle. He directed various means to be tried for obtaining supplies of provisions; and employed his mind in reflecting on the best plans to be pursued by the different commanders of the army. He prepared accounts for each state, of the number of troops which remained of those sent by it, and urged earnestly that more should be engaged. Congress was assembled in Lancaster, and appointed a committee to visit the camp, and Washington wrote a statement for them of all his plans for relieving the army.

While he was thus engaged, he received a letter from the English governor in New-York, enclosing a resolution of Parliament to propose a reconciliation to the Americans; offers of pardon were made, but none to acknowledge their Independence.

The governor requested General Washington to make this resolution known to his army. He sent the letter and paper to Congress, and expressed his surprise at the "extraordinary request of the governor." Congress immediately resolved to refuse accepting any offers from the English government,

unless the Independence of their country was acknowledged. General Washington enclosed this resolution to the governor, and requested him to make it known to the English army.

Soon after this, Congress received intelligence from commissioners whom they had sent to France, Silas Deane, Benjamin Franklin, and Arthur Lee, that they had succeeded in making a treaty with the French nation. When the English government heard of this, they considered it a declaration of war against them on the part of France.

The sufferings of the wounded soldiers pained the heart of their commander, and he wrote from his hut-camp, "I sincerely feel for the unhappy condition of our poor fellows in the hospitals, and wish my powers to relieve them were equal to my inclinations. Our difficulties and distresses are certainly great, and such as wound the feelings of humanity."

While he was thus humanely and actively employed in various and ceaseless duties, slanderers were busy in secret, preparing new anxieties for his harassed mind. Unsigned letters were sent to several members of Congress, containing base charges against him, and urging them to endeavour to take from him the command of their armies.

He received a letter from Patrick Henry, governor of Virginia, enclosing one that

1778. had been sent to him on the sub-  
 Feb. 20. ject. Governor Henry said, "While  
 you face the armed enemies of our  
 liberty, and by the favour of God have been  
 kept unhurt, I trust our country will never  
 harbour in her bosom the miscreant who  
 would ruin our best supporter. I cannot  
 help assuring you of the high sense of grati-  
 tude which all ranks of men in this your na-  
 tive country bear you. I do not like to  
 make a parade of these things, for I know  
 you are not fond of it; but the occasion will  
 plead my excuse."

After thanking him, Washington, in re-  
 ply, said, "All I can say is, Ame-  
 March 27. rica has, and I trust ever will have,  
 my honest exertions to promote her interest.  
 I cannot hope that my services have been  
 the best; but my heart tells me, they were  
 the best that I could render." He requested  
 that the papers might all be laid before Con-  
 gress, as they contained, he said, "serious  
 charges."

Pained no doubt by these cruel slanders,  
 yet his noble mind did not suffer them to in-  
 fluence his conduct towards those whom he  
 had cause to suppose were the authors of  
 them. He said, "My enemies take an un-  
 generous advantage of me. They know I  
 cannot combat their insinuations, however  
 injurious, without disclosing secrets it is of  
 the utmost importance to conceal."

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The only effect these attacks had, was to excite the resentment of the people of the United States against those who made them; and to bind still closer to their revered commander, the army from whom his secret enemies wished to remove him. There was something in his character which attached his officers and troops to him so firmly, that no distress nor sufferings could lessen the veneration they felt for him; and he always acknowledged with praise their faithfulness and attachment.

In describing their state in the hut-camp, he said, "For some days there has been little less than a famine in the camp; but naked and starving as they are, I cannot enough admire the incomparable fidelity of the soldiers, that they have not before this time been excited to a general mutiny or dispersion."

The inhabitants of the surrounding country knowing this sad state of the army, were very uneasy; one of them left his home, one day, with an anxious heart, and as he was passing thoughtfully the edge of a wood near the hut-camp, he heard low sounds of a voice. He stopped to listen, and looking between the trunks of the large trees, he saw General Washington engaged in prayer. He passed quietly on, that he might not disturb him; and on returning home, told his family he was cheered with a confident hope

of the success of the Americans; for their leader did not trust to his own strength, but sought aid from the hearer of prayer, who promised in his word, "Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show the great and mighty things which thou knowest not."

A female, who lived at the Valley Forge when the army was encamped there, told a friend who visited her soon after they left it, that she had discovered that it was the constant custom of Washington to retire to a short distance from the camp to worship God in prayer.

In after days, when those who had been engaged in the trying warfare, were enjoying the blessings of that independence for which they had toiled, they then could be sensible that they had been tried by their Creator to "humble them and prove them," that he might "do them good at the latter end."

When the gloomy winter was passed, Washington prepared, as far as he had the power, for the summer campaign; but all the plans he formed for increasing his army were in a great degree disappointed. The favour of Divine Providence had been given in restraining their enemies from attacking them in their hut encampment; want of provisions would have forced them out of it, and their sad condition as to clothing would have disabled them from remaining in the

field unsheltered. In February there were more than three thousand men unfit for duty, from a want of clothes; and there were not more than five thousand who could have attempted to resist a well clad, well fed, and high spirited army. The wisdom of their foes was "turned into foolishness," or the feeble Americans would have fallen beneath their power.

In the spring, to restrain as much as possible the parties which went from the city to get provisions, and to form a guard for the security of the army at the Valley Forge, General La Fayette, with two thousand men, was stationed at Barren Hill, about eight or ten miles in front of the army. When the English commander was informed of this, he sent General Grant, with five thousand men, to march quietly in the night, and place themselves between La Fayette and the hut-camp. A detachment of militia, who were to have guarded the roads in that direction, changed their place without the knowledge of La Fayette; and at sunrise he discovered that this large force of the enemy was approaching in a way that would prevent his retreat to the camp. May 20.

He immediately advanced at the head of a column, as if to meet the enemy, while he directed the rest of his troops to move off rapidly towards the Schuylkill, and as he

advanced, he also approached the river. General Grant halted to prepare for battle; and La Fayette directed some of his troops to arrest the attention of those who had been placed to guard the ford, and he then passed so quickly over the river, with all his men, that he had possession of the high grounds, by the time that his enemy could arrive at the ford; and they returned to the city without having accomplished the purpose for which they had been sent out.

When the English government knew of the treaty between France and America, they expected that a French fleet would be sent out, and in that case Philadelphia would be a dangerous situation for their army. Sir Henry Clinton took the place of Sir William Howe, and he was directed to remove the troops from the city. When General Washington heard of this, he formed his plan for acting. He wished to prevent the enemy passing through New Jersey

June 18. with ease; and he directed the militia there to break down the bridges, and obstruct the roads as much as possible; and he kept his own troops in readiness to move, so soon as the enemy should leave the city.

On the eighteenth of June, they crossed at Gloucester point, into New Jersey, and passed slowly on through Haddonfield towards Allentown. The numerous troops

with their baggage, formed a line of several miles in length.

General Washington put his troops into motion on the same day, and marched through Pennsylvania to Coryell's Ferry, where the town of New Hope has since been built; there he crossed the Delaware, and advanced towards Kingston in New Jersey. The English army had marched to Monmouth; and Washington having determined on attacking them, gave orders to the officers of his army, and marched towards Monmouth, where he met the enemies of his country, on the twenty-eighth of June. The heat of the air was powerful; but more powerful still were the uncontrolled passions of human nature; and the dreadful work of battle commenced, and continued until the beams of the glowing sun were all withdrawn, and the dark, cool shade of night fell upon the awful scene, and stopped the fearful work.

The American army rested on their arms; and General Washington threw himself at the foot of a tree, to gain a little ease after the fatigues of the anxious day. He expected that the light of dawn would be the signal for renewing the action; but the English moved silently away in the night, and the morning showed the mournful scene which the passions of man leave on a battle ground—man deprived of life and all its

hopes by his fellow man; or wounded, to linger in uncomforted sufferings. Every real Christian will rejoice, that there is a divine promise that the time shall come, when he who is "the Mighty God," will take the title of "the Prince of Peace," and bring all hearts into subjection to the mild precepts of the gospel, so that "Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."

The victory was claimed by both armies. General Washington knew that the English could gain a favourable situation before he could overtake them, and he determined on not attempting it; but moved towards the north river, while the enemy passed on, and crossed over to New York.

Before General Washington reached the place he intended to encamp on, he received  
July 13. a letter from congress, informing him, that a French fleet had arrived off the coast of Virginia, and that congress wished him immediately to form some plan in which the fleet could assist him. The admiral of the fleet proposed attacking the English at Newport, in Rhode Island. General Washington consented to this, and made preparations for doing so. American troops, commanded by General Sullivan, were soon in readiness to besiege the town, but waited for some days for the French fleet to appear and assist them.

Feeling confident that it was near, Sullivan commenced the siege. The fleet in a few days was in sight, but then was moved off to meet the English fleet which had sailed from New York. They were preparing for an action, when a violent storm separated them, and injured several of their ships. The English fleet then sailed back to New York, and the French admiral D'Estaing informed General Sullivan, that he could not return to Newport, but would sail to Boston to repair his ships.

Sullivan was sadly disappointed by this resolution, as it would oblige him to give up the siege, in which he had every prospect of success, if assisted by the fleet. General La Fayette went to the admiral to endeavour to prevail on him to remain, but his efforts were vain. General Sullivan then, in giving his orders to his troops, said they must "endeavour to do for themselves, what their French friends had refused to aid them in;" but he found it would be useless to continue the siege, and he withdrew from Newport. He was followed by the English, and had a short but severe battle, and then crossed over to the main land. The next day, a large force and several English ships arrived at Newport, so that if he had remained one day longer, his army must have been destroyed or taken. The French admiral

Aug. 29.

was very much offended by what General Sullivan had said; and the people in Boston were so much displeased with the conduct of the admiral, that it was feared he would not be able to get assistance there to repair his ships.

With the care of an anxious parent for a child, Washington watched every occurrence that would be likely to injure the interests of his country; and this event gave him great uneasiness. He endeavoured to calm the offended parties; and in this work of peace-making he was aided by the amiable La Fayette, who was as deservedly dear to his own countrymen, as he was to the Americans. A few letters passed between Washington and the admiral, and at last good humour was restored.

When the English fleet was repaired, it sailed to Boston, to blockade the French; but a storm again carried it out to sea, and the French fleet left Boston, and  
Nov. 3. sailed for the West Indies.

As it seemed probable that there would be a war in Europe, in which France would take a part, General La Fayette wished to offer his services to his own country. General Washington expressed a wish to Congress that La Fayette, instead of resigning his commission, might have leave of absence for any time that he wished; Congress complied with this, and La Fayette returned



to France. A part of the English army was sent in the fleet of Commodore Hyde Parker, to the southern states; and as there was no prospect of doing any thing in the northern or middle states in a winter campaign, Washington placed his army in huts. The main body in Connecticut, on both sides of the Hudson river, and about West Point, and at Middle Brook.

Soon after the English had left Philadelphia, commissioners, appointed by their government, sent to Congress a paper containing a proposal for peace, but none for admitting the Americans to be an independent nation. Congress rejected the proposal. Several letters were addressed to some members of Congress, assuring them of honours and rewards if they would endeavour to restore peace. A proposal was made to Mr. Reed, a member from Pennsylvania, that he should have the best office in America under the king, and ten thousand pounds, if he could bring Congress to consent to the offers of the English. He replied, that he was "not worth buying; but such as he was, the king of England was not rich enough to do it." The commissioners persisted for some time in their endeavours to succeed, and sent addresses to persons of every description in each state, with offers of pardon if they would return to their duty to the king; and threatenings

of severe vengeance if they did not: but their promises and threats were disregarded.

In preparing for the next campaign, Congress were less active than the anxious mind of Washington thought absolutely necessary, for they expected that the alliance formed with France would be of great importance to aid them in soon ending the war. Washington used every effort to prevent this false security injuring the cause he was so desirous to promote; and his wisdom and sound judgment could discover the fatal consequences of becoming less active in preparations for defence. The English troops which had been sent to Georgia, commanded by General Prevost and Colonel Campbell, had succeeded in taking entire possession of that state; and thus victorious there, it was probable they would attempt to do the same in the other southern states. In writing on the subject of increasing every effort to raise more troops, Washington said—"I have seen  
1779. without despondency even for a moment, the hours which America called her gloomy ones; but I have beheld no day since the commencement of hostilities, when I have thought her liberties in such imminent danger as at present."

An occurrence in his army, caused in his mind a new care. The Indians on the fron-

tiers of the states had been practising their barbarous warfare, in connexion with some of the equally barbarous white settlers.

Washington determined on sending troops there for the relief of the suffering inhabitants; and gave orders for this purpose to the officers whom he intended should command these troops. The officers of one of the regiments entered into an agreement not to march, until Congress had paid them all that was due to them; and to resign, if it was not done in three days.

When their commander was informed of this, he was much distressed. He knew the sufferings which had driven them to this determination; but he dreaded the ill consequences of it, and immediately wrote to the officers as their friend as well as their commander.

He said, “The patience and perseverance of the army have been, under every disadvantage, such as to do them the highest honour, both at home and abroad; and have inspired me with an unlimited confidence in their virtue, which has consoled me amidst every perplexity and reverse of fortune, to which our affairs, in a struggle of this nature, were necessarily exposed. Now that we have made so great a progress to the attainment of the end we have in view, so that we cannot fail, without a most shameful desertion of our own interests; any thing like a change

of conduct would imply a very unhappy change of principles, and a forgetfulness as well of what we owe to ourselves as to our country. The service for which the regiment was intended does not admit delay. I am sure I shall not be mistaken in expecting a prompt and cheerful obedience." The rest of the letter contained assurances of his affectionate interest in their concerns, and his constant endeavours to procure for them all the relief in his power.

The officers replied, that they sincerely regreted having given him uneasiness, but that they had been driven to the course they had pursued, by being without the means of supplying their families with food. They assured him, they did not intend to disobey his orders, and that they had "the highest sense of his abilities and virtues." They marched at the time appointed, and their faithful commander made such earnest representations to Congress, on the subject of making provision for them, that he was in a good degree successful in obtaining it.

Early in the spring, he received information that the English in New-York were making preparations for some expedition; and he suspected they would attempt to take possession of the forts on the Hudson river. That river, in winding through the Highlands, forms views which those who love nature's scenery may gaze on with delight.

The broad stream, which now is daily covered with proofs of the prosperity of the land, was once used as means to prevent that prosperity; for the ships of the enemy would pass up its deep bed with ease, and carry the dreadful instruments of destruction. The high points of land from which the eye may now rest on thickly inhabited, fertile landscapes, were once spots from which the fearful sounds of war were sent and echoed by the hills.

At the commencement of the Highlands the Americans had erected a fort, which they called La Fayette. It was on the west side of the Hudson, and opposite to it is a high piece of ground, called Stony Point. They began to form defences there, but before they were completed, a large force from New-York was sent out against the workers, and they were obliged to retreat. The English then fired upon Fort La Fayette from Stony Point, while their ships prepared to attack it from their situation higher up the river. To prevent the entire destruction of all the troops in it, June 2. the commander surrendered the fort, and the enemy then finished the works on Stony Point, and placed troops there for its defence. A part of their army then marched into Connecticut; the militia of that state assembled immediately, and made a brave resistance, but it was feeble compared to the

power of their foes. The governor of New-York, General Tryon, commanded them, and he excused himself for burning the towns, by saying it was "to resent the firing of the rebels from their houses, and to mask a retreat."

On the first intelligence of the invasion of Connecticut, Washington sent troops to aid the militia of that state; but before they could be useful, the English troops were recalled to New-York. This movement was occasioned by the activity of the Americans in the Highlands.

Washington had determined on endeavouring to recover Stony Point; he thought that success in this would draw the enemy from their destructive work of burning the towns on the coast. The troops chosen for this attempt were commanded by General Wayne. They marched fourteen miles over a rough mountainous country, and then had to pass a long marsh. They succeeded in approaching the fort in quietness in the middle of the night, and made their attack with so much bravery, that they got possession of it without a single gun being fired by them. July 15.

As General Washington expected, this success caused the English general to recall his army from Connecticut, and he determined to employ all his force, by land and water, to retake the fort. Washington knew

they would certainly succeed, he would not expose his troops to destruction, and he withdrew them from Stony Point, and placed them at West Point, which he made the head quarters of his army. Soon after he had done so, one of his officers, Major Lee, planned surprising the English troops that were stationed at Paules-Hook. He was successful in executing his plan, and took a large number of them prisoners. Aug. 18.

The French fleet returned from the West Indies, and arrived off the coast of Georgia, and made an unsuccessful attack on the English in Savannah, assisted by the American troops, who were commanded by General Lincoln. The fleet then left America again.

In the course of that season, the noise of war was heard in almost every portion of the land.

General Sullivan was sent against the Indians on the frontiers. English troops entered the newly settled parts of Massachusetts, and a large force was also busy in the south.

When the month of December was almost passed, General Washington placed his army in two hutted camps. One near West Point, for the security of the posts on the North river; and the other near Morristown, in New-Jersey.

Winter quarters afforded but little rest to his anxious mind, for his troops were destitute of provisions,—so much so, that he wrote to Congress that at one time he thought it would be impossible to keep them together, for they had to eat “every kind of horse food but hay;” and yet, said he, “they bore it with heroic patience, and not one mutiny was excited.”

A considerable force, commanded by Sir Henry Clinton, was sent from New-York to the southern states, and was actively employed there during the winter. An army and fleet attacked Charleston, which was bravely defended by General Lincoln and a

few troops; but the power of their  
1780. enemies could not be resisted long,  
May 12. and General Lincoln was obliged  
to surrender to them. His troops, and the  
citizens of Charleston who had given their  
aid to defend it, were considered as prisoners  
of war. The success of the English induced  
their commander to think, that the southern  
states would soon be reduced to submission;  
he left part of his army there, under the  
command of General Cornwallis, and re-  
turned with the rest to New-York.

Cornwallis continued to be successful, and addressed the inhabitants of Carolina, to induce them to submit to the English government; but many of the richest inhabitants



gave up their property and went into banishment from their homes, rather than remain upon the terms offered to them.

The little American army there were active in their brave endeavours to stop the progress of the invaders, and were in some instances successful; but Cornwallis was again assisted by an addition to his army from New-York, and he moved on, overpowering all opposition.

## CHAPTER VI.

When the frosts and cold blasts had ceased, and "the time of the singing of birds" had come, the fields of the land were gay with verdure and flowers, and the leaves of the forest trees burst in glossy beauty from their winter quarters; but the almost perished troops of Washington left their's in sad array; their appointed season of gloom was not ended, and the cheerful sounds and sights of spring could not gladden the heart of their anxious commander. But though he was "walking in the midst of troubles," he was not forsaken by God, and he might have used the language of trust, "Thou wilt revive me: thou shalt stretch forth thy hand against the wrath of our enemies, and thy right hand shall save us."

The difficulty of obtaining food, and the uncertainty of receiving even the small pay that was due to them, had greatly depressed the soldiers; and the patience of some was almost worn out. Two regiments declared their resolution to return home, and it was with some difficulty they were prevented, and induced to persevere in the performance of their duty. The paper money,

which was the only kind Congress had to pay them with, was becoming every day less and less in value; and when they did receive it, four months' pay of a soldier would not purchase a bushel of wheat for his family; nor would the pay of an officer supply him with the shoes he needed.

The discontent which was arising in the army, was known by the English commander in New-York, and he secretly sent into their camp a paper which contained artful persuasions to induce the May. discontented to give up the cause in which they had suffered so much. He thought too, that the inhabitants of the surrounding country were wearied of endeavouring to supply an army with provisions; and he sent five thousand men, commanded by General Knyp-hausen, with the expectation that they would not meet any opposition from the people; and that some portion of the American soldiers would be willing to join them.

They landed at night at Elizabethtown Point, in New-Jersey, and marched early the next morning towards Springfield; but they soon were convinced that they were mistaken as to the manner in which they would be welcomed by the inhabitants and the army. On the first appearance of the confident invaders, the militia of the state assembled, and though their number was not sufficient to make a stand against them

at any one place, they did not lose sight of them, but made irregular attacks whenever their situation would admit of doing so.

A flourishing settlement, called the Connecticut Farms, was entirely reduced to ashes; and the wife of the clergyman, who was sitting in her house surrounded by her children, was shot by a soldier who saw her through the window. This savage act was condemned by his commander, but it had the effect of rousing all the people to resistance.

The same day on which the English marched from Elizabethtown, Washington marched with his army to meet them near Springfield, and there prepared for an en-

June 7. gagement; but the enemy retreated in the night to the place where they had landed. The whole army of Washington was less than three thousand men, and he could not risk the defeat of this little remnant, by attacking five thousand, unless he was placed in a very favourable position.

The enemy remained for some time at Elizabethtown. Washington wrote earnestly to Congress for an increase of troops; he said—"The enemy perhaps are waiting for the arrival of the troops they expect from the south, to bend all their force against this army, or to push up the North river, against our troops in the Highlands,

—in either case, the most disastrous consequences are to be apprehended.”

He received some additional troops, but had only about five thousand and five hundred, when he heard that the troops from the south had arrived, and he knew that the force of the enemy would then amount to more than twelve thousand. He wrote to Congress—  
June 18.  
“The danger is imminent and pressing; the obstacles to be surmounted are great and numerous; and our efforts must be instant, unreserved, and universal.”

Sir Henry Clinton wished to lead Washington to believe, that he intended to send his troops towards West Point, and he made an appearance of great preparations for doing so. The possession of the Highlands was very important; and Washington therefore put the greater part of his army into motion that they might be in readiness to defend the forts there; but he thought that the preparations were perhaps only made to deceive him into leaving New Jersey defenceless, and while he moved slowly towards Pompton, watching the movements of the enemy, he left General Greene with about a thousand men, at Springfield.

When Washington had marched eleven miles beyond Morris-  
June 23.  
town, the English army moved from Eliza-

bethtown towards Springfield, by two different roads. They were opposed on both these roads by detachments of Americans, while General Green placed the rest on the heights around, where he was scarcely able to arrange them in order, when the English appeared. The bridge over the Rahway, a small river near the town, was defended for some time by two hundred Americans. And another bridge over the same river by a small force, until the English forded the river and were surrounding them; they then withdrew. General Greene could not leave the heights to aid them, without the certainty of being defeated, for the force of his enemies was greater than five thousand, and his own, only one. The parties that defended the bridges were overpowered by numbers, and then succeeded in retreating to the heights. The English entered Springfield, and reduced it to ashes. The bravery shown by the little army, and the situation that it maintained on the heights, sending out detachments to attack the foe, prevented a continuance of their first intention, and in the afternoon they withdrew to Elizabethtown, and that night passed over to Staten Island.

When General La Fayette returned to France, he was received with great favour; and that kind and faithful friend of Americans, used all his influence to persuade the

French government to send them assistance. He succeeded in his efforts; and when he had done so, as his own country did not need his services, he returned to America, to bring the tidings that a French fleet would soon sail for the United States.

La Fayette was received by his friend Washington with joy and affection. He had determined to remain, and share again his toils and dangers by resuming his situation in the army. He was welcomed by Congress with respect, and they immediately began to make more active preparations for the next campaign, in the hope that it would be the last one. They called upon the different states to raise more troops, and give more aid to provide for them. This call was attended to; but the expected aid was slowly given. Several private contributions were sent; but all that was done was insufficient for the relief that was needed; and so late as the last of June, General Washington wrote to Congress, to urge them to further efforts, and show them the great necessity for more aid.

The state of his army caused him distress and vexation. He felt for the officers, as he knew they must suffer mortification from the exposure of their condition, to the well fed and well clothed French troops, who were expected soon to arrive. He said in his letter on the subject to Congress—"For

the troops to be without clothing, at any time, is highly injurious to the service and distressing to our feelings; but the want will be more peculiarly mortifying, when we come to act with those of our allies. It is most sincerely to be wished that there could be some supplies of clothing furnished to the officers. There are a great many whose condition is still miserable. It would be well for their own sakes, and for the public good, if they could be furnished. They will not be able, when our friends come to co-operate with us, to go on a common routine of duty; and if they should, they must, from their appearance, be held in low estimation."

This picture of the state of the American army, shows the strength of the patriotism which influenced them. They felt severely, but no sufferings could induce them to give up a cause, in which they believed they were exercising virtuous principles. Gaining a victory in battle, might have caused them to be loudly praised; but their patient perseverance in the endurance of their various trials, is much more worthy of remembrance and admiration, than the heroism displayed in a battle would be.

The American females were not inactive in that time of need; they employed themselves in making up clothing for the destitute soldiers, and in many instances denied



themselves the use of comforts, that they might cast a mite into this treasury.

Another cause for anxious care was given to Washington, in the circumstance of his not being able to judge correctly how many troops he should probably have under his command from the different states. It was very important to him to know this, in forming his plans for acting with the French fleet. In writing to Congress on the subject, he said—"The interest of the states, the honour and reputation of our councils, the justice and gratitude due to our allies—all require that I should, without delay, be enabled to ascertain and inform them, what we can or cannot undertake. Delay may be fatal to our hopes." In this vexing state of uncertainty, he did not indulge the wayward feeling that he might be less active in the performance of his duty, because others, who were as much concerned in the advantage to be gained, were neglectful of theirs. He engaged his mind in forming various plans, with the hope of obtaining the assistance needful for executing them. He was anxious to attempt getting possession of New York, which was the **strong** hold of the enemies of his country; and feeble as the hope of success was, he cherished it.

In July he heard that the French fleet had arrived at Rhode Island; July 10.  
and it was then necessary that he should

immediately determine on some particular plan in which the fleet could give assistance. His favourite one of attacking New York, was resolved upon, and he wrote to Congress his determination, adding, "It remains with the states, either to fulfil their engagements, preserve their credit, and support their independence, or to involve us in disgrace and defeat." General La Fayette carried to the French admiral the plan which Washington had formed. A day in August was appointed, on which it was expected the fleet might sail for New York; and the American army was to assemble at Morrissiana, in readiness to be aided by the fleet in the proposed attack. Before the appointed day arrived, a British fleet came from England, which, in addition to that already at New York, made a force much greater than that of the French fleet, which they immediately determined to attack, as it lay before Newport, at the same time that Sir Henry Clinton should attack that town with his troops.

When General Washington heard of this plan, he sent information of it to the French admiral; and resolved, that in the absence of the troops who were to leave New York, he would attempt to take possession. He added to his army all the troops that could be spared with prudence from West Point, and was marching hastily to New York,

when Sir Henry Clinton suddenly returned; he had heard such accounts of the situation of the defences at Newport, that he had given up his intention to attack it. Washington and his army were greatly disappointed, for he knew it would be rash to attempt attacking the city without the aid of a fleet, when it was so well guarded by one; but he did not give up the hope of being assisted, and wrote to the French admiral on the subject. Several letters passed from one to the other, but they concluded that they could understand the plan better, if they saw each other to converse on it; they agreed to do so, and General Washington went to Hartford, in Connecticut, to meet the admiral on the twenty-first day of September.

While he was absent, the fierce but wily passion of revenge was busy in the depraved heart of an American, forming a plot of treason: that heart beat in the breast of General Arnold. When the English had left Philadelphia, he was placed there to take the command, as it was a situation in which he could have the rest which seemed to be necessary for the recovery of the wounds which he had received in Canada. His courage and military talent caused him to be highly regarded as an officer, and his countrymen were desirous that he might be able again to take an active part in the war.

His bodily strength was soon restored; but the integrity of his mind was feeble: and he who had endured hardships with bravery, and had been a hero in battle, was overcome by the indulgence of ease, and became a coward in his resistance of temptations to the practice of vice. One of the many and often-trodden paths which are on "the broad way that leadeth to destruction," is called the *path of pleasure*; its allurements are gay and powerful, and whoever enters that path, either in youth or manhood, loses his moral courage, and submits his mind to giddy deceptions; so that it would be a vain boast, to call himself a freeman.

Arnold, who had toiled through dangers, and fought for liberty with bravery and ardour, entered that delusive path, and soon became the slave of its weakening influence. While his former companions in the field of battle were persevering courageously in the defence of their country, and suffering from the want of food and clothing—he was engaged in mirthful revelries, and was wasting a fortune in the gratification of idle vanity. He became involved in debt; and then dishonestly used every means within his power, to get possession of the property of others. His ill conduct was at length made known to Congress, and they appointed a court of officers of the army, to examine the charges brought against him.

His accusers had no difficulty in proving what they asserted, and the court sentenced him to receive a reproof from General Washington; this they considered a truly severe punishment. He received reproof from stern virtue with feelings of bitter resentment. Vice had so hardened his heart, that the consciousness of deserving punishment, had not the effect of softening it to repentance; and to plan for revenge against the officers who had sentenced him, and the upright and noble man who had reproved him, became the employment of his thoughts.

His depraved mind could readily practise deception; and he said he was desirous to be again placed in a situation to be useful to his country. He expressed this desire so frequently, and with such seeming sincerity, that General Washington offered to him the command of a division of the army, when he was preparing to attack New York, in the absence of Sir Henry Clinton. Arnold said that his wounds had rendered him too feeble to engage in very active duties, and declined accepting this offer. General Washington could not feel any suspicions of his resentful intention; though he was surprised at his unwillingness to use an opportunity for recovering the favourable opinion of the public.

The state of New York was particularly

interested in the safety of West Point; and some important inhabitants of that state, who had a high opinion of the military talent of Arnold, and believed him to be faithful in his attachment to his country, applied to General Washington to place him there; as he might be very useful without much bodily exertion. This was the very situation which Arnold was anxious to obtain; and after writing to General Washington on the subject, he went to the camp to see him, and urge the request. The General, trusting his professions, and believing that he would be very capable of performing the military duties of such a station, gave to him the command. Rejoicing that he had been thus far successful in his deceptive plan, Arnold informed Sir Henry Clinton, that he was anxious to return to his duty as an English subject, and repented having left the service of the king. In true repentance, there is always a desire to benefit those against whom the fault has been committed; and Arnold wished to make his profession of repentance seem sincere, by offering to do all in his power to place his country again in a state of dependence.

When he went to West Point, he wrote to Sir Henry, that he would manage the troops stationed there so, that he might, on attacking them, readily make them his prisoners, or else entirely destroy them. The English

general must have despised and distrusted the traitor, and he ought to have scorned the proposal of using such cowardly means for subduing the Americans; but to get possession of West Point was so desirable, that he gladly received the base offer, and said he would appoint an officer to correspond with Arnold on the subject.

The officer chosen for this degrading duty, was Major André. He was young, and had been expensively educated, and was admired for the attainments of his mind, and his disposition was so frank and amiable, that he was esteemed by all who became acquainted with him. As an officer he was brave and faithful, and was a favourite in the army. His friends were strongly and tenderly attached to him, and felt a perfect confidence in the strength of his virtuous principles. But the foundation of those principles was a wrong one; they were placed on the duty which he owed to men, and not on that which he owed to God. When Sir Henry Clinton informed him of the employment he intended to give him, he consented to take a part in deception and treachery, and by doing so, lost his claim to integrity of mind.

Several letters passed between Arnold and André, signed by the names of Gustavus and Anderson; but the plan of treason could not be safely understood without some



conversation on the subject, and Arnold sent a pass, or written permission, for André to go in the character of a person on business, past the guards at West Point, to a house near to the out-post, where he promised to meet him: in the pass, he was called John Anderson. An English sloop of war, named the Vulture, was sent up the Hudson to take André as near to West Point as possible, without the risk of exciting suspicion. He was rowed in a small boat to the shore, and arrived in safety at the place appointed by Arnold, September. Night was chosen to veil from human eyes the plottings of treachery; but "an All-seeing eye," to which "the darkness is as the noon day," rested on the deluded and erring André. And a power, from which no human strength or wisdom can deliver, was preparing a dreadful punishment for his wanderings from the path of virtue.

The night was spent in deeply interesting conversation, and the morning dawned before all the parts of the dark plot were well understood. André could not return to the vessel by the light of day, with any hope of safety; and Arnold assured him that he could conceal him until night, and for this purpose took him within the posts, and remained with him all day. The Vulture had been noticed from the fort, and fired on, and



the commander thought it necessary to move to a greater distance down the river. When daylight had again faded from the sky, and the hour of darkness had come, for which no doubt André had anxiously watched, he left his place of concealment, and expected to be quickly conveyed to the vessel from which he had come the night before; but it was removed to so great a distance, that he could not prevail on any boatmen to take him to it, and Arnold did not dare to aid him in persuading them.

Sadly perplexed, André was obliged at length to determine on passing to New York by land. This was a perilous attempt; for parties of militia were employed in watching all the roads leading from the Highlands to that city. Arnold insisted on his changing his dress for a plain one, and wrote a pass for him, desiring the guards and militia to "permit John Anderson to go to the White Plains, on business of great importance."

With this permit he passed all the out-guards with safety; and was riding on with a feeling of security, when a man sprung from a thicket by the road side, and seized the bridle of his horse. In the first practice of deception, an ingenuous mind is timid; and André, though brave when acting truly, became a coward when he was conscious that he was a deceiver. He forgot his pass

in the moment of need, and in a hurried tone of alarm, asked the man where he was from? "From below," was the reply; and supposing this meant from New York, André said hastily, "So am I;" and added, that he was a British officer who was going on important business, and begged that he might not be detained a moment. Two more men then came from the woods; and he discovered too late that they all were Americans: their names were, David Williams, John Paulding, and Isaac Vanwert. He offered to give them his valuable watch, a purse of gold, and the promise of a large reward from the English commander, if they would allow him to pass.

All his offers were disregarded, and he was obliged to submit to being searched. The papers he had received from Arnold were in his boots; his captors took possession of them, and conducted him to a militia officer named Jameson. André, anxious for the safety of Arnold, asserted to Jameson that his name was John Anderson, and requested him to send immediately to West Point, and inform General Arnold that he was there. Jameson could not believe that Arnold was connected with André in a plot of treachery, and he immediately complied with his request. When André thought that Arnold had time to escape, he again acknowledged his real character; and Jame-

son sent an express to General Washington, with the papers that had been found in André's boots; and André wrote to him an account of the manner in which he had been captured, and the reason of his being disguised.

General Washington was returning from Hartford, and the express took a road different from that on which he was travelling, and thus missed him. He had sent to inform Arnold that he would be at West Point to breakfast; but stopping to examine some of the important passes in the mountains, he was detained later than he expected. Several officers, in expectation of seeing their loved commander, were breakfasting with Arnold, when he received a letter from Jameson informing him of the capture of John Anderson. With an appearance of calmness, he rose and left the room; but his wife saw a change in his countenance and followed him. With a few hasty words, he told her of his danger, and left her, to return to the breakfast room. He made an excuse for leaving the officers so hastily, by telling them that he had forgotten to give some orders which were needful for receiving the commander-in-chief with the respect due to him, and that he must immediately attend to this duty.

He was quickly down on the shore, and ordered a sergeant and six men to enter a

boat, and row him immediately to the sloop Vulture, which still was at anchor below the fort. The sergeant did not hesitate one moment, for he thought that General Arnold was going with a flag of truce, on business of importance to the American cause, and he soon placed him on board of the vessel. When Arnold felt himself safe, he told the sergeant that he did not intend to return, as he had determined to enter the service of the king of England, and he endeavoured to persuade him to do the same. The sergeant and his men answered, that "If General Arnold liked the king of England, he might serve him; but they loved their country better, and intended to live and die in the support of its independence." Arnold then proposed to the commander of the Vulture to detain the men as prisoners; but he would not consent to so disgraceful an act.

By the time that General Washington arrived at West Point, the plan of treachery was known; but it was too late to secure the traitor. He requested to see Mrs. Arnold, and found her in a state of extreme distress. She begged him not to injure her, and was so violent in her feelings, that he found it was vain to attempt to calm her by assuring her that she should be treated with kindness and respect. He left her in the care of her female servant, and sent for an officer whom

he knew was strongly attached to Arnold, and who commanded one of the most important posts in the Highlands. When the officer came, Washington said to him, "Colonel, we have been deceived, Arnold is a traitor; your post may be attacked to-night; go back to it without delay, and defend it bravely, as I know you will." This generous confidence excited the feelings of the officer so much, that for some moments he was unable to reply; but when he could speak, he said, "Your Excellency has more than rewarded all that I have done, or ever could do for my country."

Arnold wrote to General Washington by the return of the boat which had conveyed him to the vessel. The daring insolence of his letter raised a glow on the cheek of Washington, but the first words he spoke after reading it, were dictated by the benevolent feelings of his heart. He desired that Mrs. Arnold might be relieved from her fears for the safety of her husband, by being told that he was secure from pursuit. Preparations were made for the defence of West Point, in case the enemy should attack it; but Sir Henry Clinton would not venture to make the attempt, when he could not be aided by the treason of its commander.

When the fate of André was to be determined, the general officers of the army met to examine him, and inquire into all the

circumstances attending the dark plot in which he had been engaged, that they might judge whether he must be considered as a spy. He was treated with great tenderness, and was told that he might refuse to reply to any questions that would lead to his condemnation; but his mind, which had no doubt been engaged in solemn reflection, could no longer willingly practise deception, and with manly frankness, he acknowledged the part he had been acting, so that it was not necessary to examine one witness.

With the hope of forming some excuse for him, it was said that he had gone to West Point with a flag of truce. He was asked if this was true; he replied, "Had I come with a flag, I might have returned with a flag." An American officer who had a hope that he might yet be saved from condemnation, began to say to him that perhaps he might be exchanged for Arnold,— "Stop," said André, "such a proposal can never come from me." All the circumstances which he confessed, led the officers to determine, that he deserved the character of a spy, and death is the sentence which the stern laws of war pass upon such a character.

Universal sorrow was felt for the sad and disgraceful close of life to which this young officer was brought, by his departure from the path of rectitude. General Washington,

in a private letter, expressed his estimation of the character of André; and perhaps never performed with so much reluctance any painful duty, as he did that of signing his sentence of death. Arnold wrote several letters on the subject to General Washington, but he did not notice them; and directed that his baggage should all be sent to him, and that Mrs. Arnold should be carefully conducted to New-York, where he was.

We are so ready to forget how unbounded and wonderful the power of God is, that we think and speak of events, which we consider trifling, as if they were not directed by him; but to say that any event happens "by chance," or "by accident," has no meaning, unless chance and accident are used as names for the secret workings of Divine power, which overrules the smallest occurrence as certainly as the greatest event. In every circumstance connected with Arnold's plot of treason, might be traced that Providence which can make the smallest incident defeat the wisest plans of man; and prove that "A man's heart deviseth his way, but the Lord directeth his steps."

The disappointed baseness of Arnold was constrained to be useful to his country. He sent addresses to the officers and soldiers of the American army, to persuade them to follow his example; assuring them that if they did so, they would be liberally reward-



ed. These addresses had the effect of uniting the Americans more firmly than ever; and the indignation which they felt, animated them to more exertions, to prove that they were determined to persevere in the defence of their country, and despised the man who had forsaken the cause of freedom.

Arnold was the only American officer, who, through all the course of the war, deserved the name of traitor; and he most truly merited it; for, after he had joined himself to the enemies of his country, he was active in his endeavours to plan and perform deeds that would be most likely to injure it, and cause distress to his countrymen; but those revengeful endeavours were made to produce good for those against whom they were directed.

The account which he gave to Sir Henry Clinton of the weak and suffering state of the American army, caused him to feel a security and confidence in his own strength, which in several instances was advantageous to them. It has been said, that when all “the probable consequences of his plot, had it been successful, came to be considered, and the *seeming* accidents by which it was discovered and defeated, all were filled with a kind of awful astonishment, and the devout perceived in the transaction the hand of Providence guiding America to independence.”



## CHAPTER VII.

In his conversation with the French admiral at Hartford, General Washington had been convinced, that he must give up his favourite plan of attacking New-York that season. The admiral told him, that he expected an addition to his fleet; but that until it arrived, he had not a force which he considered sufficient to meet the English fleet, with any probability of success, in an action. The two armies continued merely watching each other, until the time arrived for going into winter quarters; and the Americans were then stationed near Morristown, and on the borders of New-York and New-Jersey. The troops belonging to the New-England states were placed at West Point, and on both sides of the river Hudson. Dec.

The sad work of war was going on in the southern states. General Cornwallis, who had been left there with an army, had, on the 16th of August, attacked the Americans at Camden, and had almost entirely defeated them. He then seemed to consider South Carolina as a conquered state, and all the efforts that were made to resist him, he called "acts of rebellion," and gave orders,

that all persons who were found opposing the authority of the king of England, should have their property destroyed, and be treated with the greatest severity.

Some of the Americans had joined the English army, and Cornwallis heard that there were others in the back part of the state of North Carolina, who were willing to do so; and he sent Major Ferguson with troops, to unite with them in resisting and attacking all who continued faithful to the cause of independence.

Colonel Clarke, an American, who had left his home, in Georgia, when the English took possession of that state, collected a small company and attacked Augusta; the English troops there were soon aided by an additional force, and Colonel Clarke retreated to the mountains. Ferguson heard of this, and resolved to stop him and his brave little band; but some hardy mountaineers, from the western parts of Virginia and North Carolina, assembled quickly, and were joined by some militia from South Carolina. They marched rapidly towards Ferguson, who was posted on King's Mountain, and they attacked him so bravely, that in a short

Oct. 7. time his troops were entirely defeated. Ferguson was killed: three hundred of his party killed or wounded, and eight hundred made prisoners. One thousand five hundred stand of arms were taken. The

result of this attack was very important,—for the disaffected Americans who escaped, did not return to Cornwallis, and this loss obliged him to retreat out of North Carolina, where he had expected to be very successful.

He marched his army to Camden, to wait for more troops from New-York, which Sir Henry Clinton was to send to him. While his army were encamped, near Camden, he was obliged to detach parties of it to endeavour to defeat an American officer named Marion, who had a few brave men under his command, who sometimes concealed themselves in swamps and wood thickets, from which they rushed out when any opportunity occurred for an attack on the enemies of their country; or when they could defend the helpless families from which those foes were forcing provisions. An anecdote of Marion will serve to show his truly patriotic motives for enduring with patient fortitude the dangers and sufferings to which he was exposed, by persevering in his resistance of Cornwallis.

An English officer was sent to him to make some proposals for an exchange of prisoners; he received the officer with civility, and after they had settled the business on which he came, Marion invited him to stay and take dinner with him. At the name of dinner, the officer felt surprised; for on

looking round, he saw no appearance of any provisions, or of any place for preparing food. A few sun-burnt militiamen were sitting on some old tree stumps, with their powder-horns lying beside them, and Marion looked as if he had suffered from hunger.

The officer said he would accept his invitation; feeling curious, no doubt, to know where the dinner was to come from. "Well, Tom," said Marion, to one of his men, "come, give us our dinner." Tom took a pine stick, and with it drew out some sweet potatoes, from a heap of ashes, under which they had been placed, to be roasted. He cleaned them first by blowing the ashes from them with his breath, and then by wiping them with the sleeve of his homespun shirt; and piling them on a piece of bark, he placed them between the English officer and Marion, on the trunk of the fallen pine tree on which they sat. The officer took one of the potatoes, and while he was eating it, began to laugh heartily. Marion looked surprised.

"Excuse me," said the officer, "but I was thinking how drolly some of my brother officers would look, if their government was to provide them with such dinners. But, no doubt, in general, you fare better?" "Rather worse," replied Marion, "for often we have not enough potatoes to satisfy our hunger." "Then, no doubt, though you are stinted in provisions, you draw good pay," said the

officer. "Not one cent," replied Marion. "Then I do not see," said the officer, "how you can stand it." "These things depend on feeling," said Marion, "and I am happy. I would rather fight to obtain the blessing of freedom for my country, and feed on roots, than desert the cause, and gain by doing so, all the luxuries that Solomon owned. Now I walk the soil that gave me birth, and exult in the thought that I am not unworthy of it. I look on these venerable trees around me, and feel that I do not dishonour them. I think of my own sacred rights, and rejoice that I have not basely deserted them. And when I look forward, to the long, long ages of posterity, I glory in the thought that I am fighting their battles. The children of distant generations may never hear my name, but it gladdens my heart to think, that I am now contending for their freedom, with all its countless blessings."

When the officer returned to his commander, he was asked, why he looked so serious.—"I have cause, sir, to look so," was his reply. "Why," said his commander, in alarm, "has Washington defeated Sir Henry Clinton?" "No, sir; but more than that. I have seen an American general and his men without pay, and almost without clothes, living upon roots, and drinking water, and all for *liberty*. What chance have we against such men!"

Cornwallis employed a very active officer, Colonel Tarlton, to draw Marion and his few followers from their secure retreats; but he did not succeed, and he took his revenge on the surrounding country by plundering the inhabitants. He was drawn from this work by hearing of the appearance of the American general, Sumpter, who, with a company of militia, was approaching in an opposite direction. Sumpter had been a very active officer, but Cornwallis thought that he was entirely vanquished, and was greatly surprised to hear of his being again at the head of a respectable force.

He immediately determined to attack him in his camp, on Broad river, and sent a detachment from his army, commanded by Major Wemyss, for that purpose, which arrived several hours before day, and made the attack with vigour; but Sumpter quickly drew his men into order, and they defended themselves so bravely, that their enemies were soon forced to retreat, with the loss of their commander. Sumpter then changed his situation, and Cornwallis directed Tarlton to follow and attack him.

Sumpter was placed with his troops on a steep hill, near the Tiger river, when Tarlton rashly attacked them, and was soon obliged to retire, in haste and disorder, leaving near two hundred men killed or wounded on the field. The loss of the Ame-

ricans was three killed and four wounded. General Sumpter was severely wounded, and as he knew that it was probable Cornwallis would send a very powerful force against him, he thought it most prudent to disperse his men, and wait until his wound was healed to call them together again.

The regular southern army was at that time very small, and the state of it was well described by Washington, in a letter to a friend, when he appointed General Greene to take the command of it; he wrote, "You have your wish in the officer appointed to the southern command. I think I am giving you a general: but what can a general do without men, without arms, without clothing, without stores, without provisions?"

In December, General Greene joined the army, at Charlotte, in South Carolina; the whole number of troops placed under his command, did not amount to many more than two thousand, a greater part of whom were militia. He separated them into two divisions, and gave the command of one to General Morgan, and directed him to move to the south side of the Catawba river, while he marched down the Pedee river, to encamp on the east side of it.

Thus situated, the army of Cornwallis lay between them, and he determined to attack one of them, but wished to leave it uncer-



tain, as long as possible, which he would march against. Additional troops had been sent from New-York, and were on their march to Camden. Cornwallis put his army in motion, and directed its course towards North Carolina, ordering the new troops to join him at the Catawba river, and charging Tarlton to move rapidly with a large detachment against Morgan to "push him to the utmost, and at all events, drive him over Broad river;" expecting, that if he escaped Tarlton, he would be met and defeated by the main body of the army.

A sudden swelling of the streams, which the army had to pass, delayed it a much longer time than Cornwallis had calculated for, and also prevented the troops he had directed to join him from doing so at the place he had appointed. Tarlton was more active with his troops, and reached Morgan before Cornwallis had arrived at the situation in which he intended to stop him, if he was forced to retreat.

General Morgan heard of these movements of his enemies, and knowing that his situation was a very dangerous one, he crossed the Pa-colet river, and placed his men at the fording place, to defend it; but he soon heard that his pursuers had crossed the river six miles higher up, and he then quickly retreated to a spot amongst the pines, called

1781.  
January 14.



the Cowpens. Halting there, Morgan consulted the officers of his little army as to the course of conduct that ought to be determined on, and they resolved to remain there and wait for the attack of their foes. They placed their troops on a piece of rising ground, in an open wood, and waited with firmness for their pursuers, who very soon made their appearance, and advanced perfectly confident that they should be victorious.

Morgan and his officers gave their orders with so much calm judgment, and the soldiers attended to them so Jan. 17. obediently and courageously, that Tarlton and his confident troops were driven back, and forced to fly, closely followed by the Americans, who made prisoners of five hundred of the soldiers, and twenty-nine of their officers,—and got possession of eight hundred muskets, twenty-five baggage wagons, and a hundred horses.

One of the American officers, whose name was Washington, in the haste of pursuit, was separated from his regiment. Three English officers, seeing this, turned quickly and attacked him. One aimed a blow at him, which was turned aside, by a sergeant, who rushed forward to his aid. At the same moment, the second officer made a stroke at him, but a young lad, who was too small to hold a sword, wounded the officer with a

pistol, and thus saved Colonel Washington, who was engaged defending himself from the third foe, who was Tarlton; and who, finding that he could not succeed in his attack, turned to fly, and discharged a pistol, which wounded the horse of Colonel Washington, but did not injure him.

Tarlton, in making this attack, was wounded in the hand; and it has been related, that he said to an American lady of Charleston, some time afterwards, "You appear to think very highly of Colonel Washington; and yet, I have been told, that he is so ignorant a fellow, that he can hardly *write* his own name." She replied, "It may be the case, but no man can testify better than yourself, Colonel, that he knows how to make his *mark*."

Tarlton retreated with speed from the Cowpens, and did not stop until he reached the army of Cornwallis, which was at a distance of about twenty-five miles.

This victory was a very important one to the American cause; for if Morgan's army had been defeated, Cornwallis would probably have attacked General Greene's with all his force, and no doubt with success, as his troops were so numerous; and then all the southern states would have been in his possession.

The day after the battle, the troops which Cornwallis had directed to join him arrived,

and early the next morning he put all his army into motion, determining to attack Morgan with a force that would certainly destroy him. General Morgan expected this would be the course that his enemies would pursue, and he lost no time in endeavouring to escape from them. He marched quickly towards the Catawba river, and had crossed it only two hours, before the English army reached its banks. As night was near, Cornwallis resolved not to attempt crossing the river until the day should

Jan. 29.

dawn; but when the dawn came, that gracious hand, which was conducting the Americans to independence, through scenes of trial, had placed a barrier between Cornwallis and his expected prey, which all his power and wisdom could not enable him to overcome. A rain fell during the night, which seemed to be too trifling to make any increase in the depth of the river, but was rendered impassable by it; and continued to be so for two days.

This providential delay of his pursuers, gave Morgan time to place his prisoners in a state of security, with the arms and stores which he had taken, and to refresh his wearied troops.

General Greene, on hearing of the battle at the Cowpens, was anxious to unite the two divisions of his army, and he travelled hastily to join General Morgan and aid him

by his counsel, leaving the other division of his army under the command of General Huger.

When the swell of the waters had abated so that Cornwallis could cross the Catawba, he did so, and continued a rapid pursuit of the Americans, who were marching towards the Yadkin river, which they crossed, partly

Feb. 2.      ly on flats and partly by fording it, and had only time to secure all the flats from being used by their pursuers, when they appeared on the opposite bank of the river. Again the waters were commanded to aid the Americans, and before their foes could prepare boats or flats to cross the Yadkin, a heavy rain and driving wind rendered it dangerous to make the attempt.

The stream continued to rise, and Cornwallis was obliged to move nearer to its source, where it was less deep, before he could venture to cross it.

This delay enabled General Greene to move on as far as Guilford Court-House, where he was joined by the division he had left under the command of Huger.

When Cornwallis found that he could not prevent the union of these divisions, he resolved to endeavour to get between them and Virginia, so as to force them to an action, before they could receive any aid from troops which he heard were preparing in that state to join their countrymen.

General Greene knew that an action with so powerful an enemy must be fatal to his army; and he used great exertions to move it quickly on towards the Dan river, with the hope of being able to cross it and enter Virginia, before Cornwallis could overtake him. After many perplexing difficulties were overcome, by patient and active perseverance, General Greene succeeded in getting his troops safely conveyed across the river. They had marched forty miles in the preceding twenty-four hours, and the last boat in which they were crossing the river had scarcely touched the northern bank, when the army of Cornwallis appeared on the opposite shore.

General Greene and his little army had retreated for more than two hundred miles, without the loss of any men. The season was winter, the weather cold and wet, and the roads either deep or icy, and the troops almost naked and barefooted, and often had no other food than corn grated on their tin canteens, in which they punched holes for that purpose. The army of Cornwallis had passed over the same roads, but they were well clothed, and provided with strengthening food, and were only prevented overtaking the Americans by the swelling of the waters in their way. They were so often thus stopped, when the Americans had just passed over in safety, that the particular

providence of God was clearly seen in these delays, and General Greene and his feeble army had cause to praise the mercy which directed these means for their preservation from a powerful foe.

When the American army entered Virginia, Cornwallis gave up the pursuit of it, and marched slowly to Hillsborough, at that time the capital of North Carolina. He there raised the standard of the king of England, and invited all the inhabitants of the state to assist him in restoring the old government.

General Greene was resolved to prevent his having entire possession of that state; and when he had received the addition to

Feb. 23. his army of a few hundred men, he re-crossed the Dan river, and moved slowly towards Hillsborough. All the country around had been searched for provisions to supply the English army, and Cornwallis at length found that he must remove it to another situation, as it was impossible for him to obtain what was needful where he was.

When he removed, Greene advanced, but took care not to place his army where he must be forced into an action, which he wished to avoid, until he should be joined by more troops that he expected from Virginia. When they came, he determined to risk a battle, and for that purpose marched

towards Guilford to meet Cornwallis. A very severe battle was soon commenced, and continued for some March 15. time, with expectations of victory on both sides; but after a considerable loss of men, Cornwallis was able to claim it, and Greene moved his troops to a distance of twelve miles, where he prepared for another attack, which he expected would soon be made. But Cornwallis did not attempt it; for, though he had gained a victory, he had lost so many men, and was so unable to obtain provisions for his army, that he was forced to retreat towards Wilmington, where he expected he should get supplies of food. As he passed on, he proclaimed, that he had gained a great victory, and ordered that there should be a general illumination. A Mrs. Heyward, (whose husband had been sent as a rebel in a prison ship to St. Augustine, after the English had taken possession of Charleston,) closed the windows of her house, when she heard of the order of Cornwallis. An English officer entered it, and said, "How dare you disobey the order which has been given? Why is your house not illuminated?" She replied, "Is it possible for me to feel joy? Can I celebrate a victory of your army, and my husband a prisoner?" The officer said, "The last hopes of rebellion are crushed by the defeat of Greene, and you shall illuminate." "Not



a single light," said Mrs. Heyward, "shall be placed with my consent in any window of my house." Then replied the officer, I will return with a party, and before midnight level it with the ground. "You have the power," said she, "and seem disposed to use it, but you cannot control my determination, and I will not illuminate." The officer left her and did not return to execute his unfeeling threat.

On hearing that the English were retreating, instead of advancing to attack him, as he thought they would, General Greene followed them until he arrived at a place called Ramsay's Mills, and finding that Cornwallis had gone to Wilmington, near the mouth of Cape Fear river, where he could be aided by ships from the English fleet, Greene resolved not to follow him, but to march into South Carolina, and thus draw him into that state to save the troops which he left there. Cornwallis did not follow him as he had expected, but moved further northward into Virginia.

Some of the inhabitants of North Carolina had deserted the cause of liberty, and placed themselves under the protection of the English army. To them of course, the removal of that army from their state was a subject of sorrow; but to all those who had continued firm in their determination to be independent of the government of England, the



deliverance from the presence of those whose purpose was to make them submit, occasioned great joy. The name of Tarlton was heard with dread; for he was constantly practising some severity, either in destroying the property of the faithful Americans, or in punishing them whenever he had an opportunity. Some, in a moment of terror, had professed a willingness to submit, but afterwards repented that they had done so, and determined on endeavouring to defend themselves; to such persons Tarlton showed no mercy. One, a young man who had acted in this manner, was afterwards taken prisoner, and Tarlton ordered him to be immediately hung by the road side; and placed on his back the declaration, "such shall be the fate of whoever presumes to cut him down." No one but the sister of the young man dared to disregard this threat; but she, with the resolution and tenderness of female attachment, watched for a time when no one was near to prevent her sad and dangerous employment, and succeeded in getting possession of the body of her loved brother, and placed it in a grave.

While the inhabitants of the more southern states had been suffering, those of Virginia had not been left to the enjoyment of peace; for the revengeful Arnold had been made a general in the English army, and was sent to invade the native state of Wash-

ington. Early in January he attacked Richmond, and succeeded in getting possession of it, and destroying the military stores there. The resistance made to his power was too feeble to check him, and he used every opportunity for gratifying his desire to injure his countrymen.

All the events of that sad winter were such as caused the Americans to feel depressed, and increased the cares of Washington. There were no sounds of gladness to hail the new year of 1781, but it commenced with an event that threatened ruin to the American cause. That part of the army which was stationed near Morristown, in New Jersey, had suffered so much for want of clothing and necessary food, that they determined to march to Philadelphia and force Congress to obtain supplies for them, or else threaten that if Congress did not, they would no longer continue in service. Their commanding officer tried in vain to prevent their doing so, and they marched towards Princeton. Three officers to whom the soldiers were attached followed them to the place where they encamped for the night, and prevailed on them to send a sergeant from each regiment to meet them and state their complaints, and what they intended to demand from Congress. They did so, and General Wayne, their commander, promised that their wishes should be made known to

Congress and attended to; and urged them to return to their duty. General Washington was at that time at New Windsor, on the North river, and General Wayne immediately sent to him an account of this alarming mutiny, and of the demands made by those who were engaged in it. Washington was much distressed by their conduct; but he felt that they had cause for complaint, and thought that he ought not to go to them lest they should disobey him, and thus deserve a punishment which would prevent their being willing to return to duty. He made all the preparations that were possible for subduing them in case they became violent in their conduct; and directed General Wayne to inform Congress of what had happened, and let them endeavour to settle the business without his interference.

Congress appointed a committee to visit the camp of the mutineers, and make proposals to them, which after a short time they agreed to accept. The time for which a large portion of them had enlisted was passed, and they were discharged, so that the army was considerably reduced.

When Sir Henry Clinton heard of the mutiny, he immediately sent men to offer secretly to the revolvers an assurance that he would receive them into his army, and supply all their wants, and would send a large force from New-York to conduct them there

in safety. But he had mistaken the feelings of the American soldiers. In a moment of extreme suffering they had yielded to the rash counsel of some impatient spirits, but no thought of becoming enemies of their country had been admitted into their minds. They seized the messengers of Sir Henry, and made his proposals known to General Wayne, with an assurance that they had scorned them. The committee from Congress offered to reward those who had made Sir Henry's messengers prisoners, but they refused to accept it, saying, "they had only done their duty, and desired for the act nothing more than the approbation of their country, for which they had so often fought and bled."

General Washington made use of this event to show to congress, and to the different states, the necessity of making more effectual exertions to supply the army with clothing and wholesome food. He represented their sufferings so feelingly, that efforts were made in each state to contribute to their relief, and small as the aid was, the sufferers were satisfied with this proof, that their countrymen were not entirely unmindful of them.

When Congress had succeeded in satisfying the discontented troops, they became engaged in the interesting business of determining on a plan for a union of the different

states, which would enable them to carry on the war with less difficulty and expense. "Articles of confederation" were drawn up, and in February they were agreed to by all the members of Congress, and the knowledge of this bond of union carried universal satisfaction.

All the accounts which General Washington heard from the southern states made him very anxious to send more troops there. The French fleet had been blocked up in the harbour of Newport by an English fleet; but a violent storm injured many of the English ships, and by their being moved away, the French admiral was enabled to send out a few of his ships, which he directed to sail to the Chesapeake. When General Washington heard of this, he resolved to send troops immediately to Virginia, in the expectation that he could obtain aid from the French vessels in attacking some of the ports which were in possession of the English. The French ships soon returned to Newport, and in returning they captured an English frigate. General Washington was disappointed in his expectation of being aided by them at that time, but he sent troops, under the command of General La Fayette, to Virginia; and went to Newport to communicate to the French admiral a plan which he had formed for being assisted by some of his vessels. The admiral

March 6.

agreed to his proposals, and sent a part of his fleet out, but it was met by the English fleet, and after a sharp action, they separated, and the French returned again to Newport.

Some of the troops which were marching to the south under the command of La Fayette, became discontented, and he discovered that every day some were secretly leaving him. He called together all that remained, and told them that he would not deceive them as to the difficulties and dangers to which he expected they would be exposed, for they were many; but, that any individual who was unwilling to encounter them, was at liberty to say so, and should have his permission to return to the army which they had left in New-Jersey. This candid and generous conduct had the effect of stopping desertions; for the soldiers were ashamed to forsake so excellent a commander. In Baltimore he obtained, at his own expense, a variety of comforts for them, and the females of that city employed themselves immediately in making up summer clothing for them.

A large force had been sent from New-York to Arnold, and Cornwallis had moved quickly to join him, and take command of all the troops. With so large a force, he was certain that he could readily defeat the little army of La Fayette, which he heard had en-

tered Virginia; and he determined to attack it as soon as possible.

La Fayette restrained his naturally ardent temper, and practised a prudent self-denial, by avoiding Cornwallis, until he should have his force increased by some troops, which General Washington had informed him were on their way to join him, commanded by General Wayne. Cornwallis heard of this, and determined to prevent La Fayette receiving this aid, and was so confident of being successful, that he wrote, (with contempt for the youth of La Fayette,) in a letter which was intercepted, "the boy cannot escape me." But "the boy" moved with so much judgment and quickness, that his confident enemy was soon convinced that he could not overtake him, or prevent his being joined by the expected troops, and he gave up the pursuit, and determined to wait for his return.

When La Fayette received the additional force which he had anxiously expected, he turned, and was very soon within a few miles of the camp of Cornwallis, who immediately suspected, that he intended to attempt securing some military stores that had been sent up the James river to Albemarle Court-House, and he placed troops in a situation to attack him on the road which he supposed he would take. La Fayette thought that Cornwallis would do so, and in the night, opened an old road which had been long out



of use, but by which he marched quietly to the situation he wished to gain; and in the morning, when Cornwallis thought to have him in his power, he had the mortification of discovering that he had passed by, and was placed in a situation in which he could not be attacked with advantage. Cornwallis

June. probably thought that the American army was larger than it really was; for he gave up the intention he had formed of forcing it to an action, and marched to Williamsburgh. La Fayette followed him with great caution, and attacked some troops that were moving about the country, but avoided the danger of an engagement with the main army.

In the rapid course of the English through Virginia, they destroyed all the private property that came in their way, as well as that which belonged to the public. Their ships sailed up the rivers, and robbed the farms on their borders. While they were thus employed, in the Potomac, a message was sent from them to the home of Washington to demand a supply of provisions, and threatened, that if they were not given, the buildings should be destroyed, and the farm laid waste. The person in whose care the farm had been left, was terrified by this threat, and went on board of one of the ships with some fresh provisions, to beg that the house might not be set on fire.



When General Washington received an account of this, he wrote to the person who had acted with so much impropriety, and told him, "I am sorry to hear of your losses, but that which gives me most concern is, that you should have gone on board of the vessels of the enemy, and furnished them with refreshments. It would have been a less painful circumstance to me, to have heard, that in consequence of your non-compliance with their request, they had burnt my house, and laid the plantation in ruins. You ought to have considered yourself as my representative, and should have reflected on the bad example of communicating with the enemy, and of making an offer of refreshment to them with a view to prevent a conflagration."

La Fayette acted with great prudence, and used every opportunity for preventing the enemy from plundering; but his force was too small to encounter the main body of their army, and he became very anxious that General Washington should go to Virginia, and give his aid in defending his native state, and in freeing it from the destructive invaders. The government of the state also urged this very much; but Washington, considering America as his country, and making the safety of the whole country his object, would not suffer any love of his native state to change the plans which he

thought would be most likely to produce benefit to the northern and middle, as well as the southern states. A sad gloom was spread over them all when the year had commenced. The enemy were making preparations in Canada to march to Fort Pitt; and it was reported, that they had assembled three thousand men, in ships on the lakes, to make an attack again from that quarter.

The dreaded Indians had united in large bands, and threatened all the western frontier with a renewal of their ferocious attacks.

The new troops, which Washington had expected from the different states, had not been raised, and those which had been long in service, were almost worn out with toils, and the want of necessary provision of food and clothing.

When any favourable event brightened the prospects of his country, Washington calmly rejoiced in it, but was not flattered into false security; and when his countrymen were ready to despond, beneath the dark clouds of adversity which gathered over their cause, he could trust that the cheering beams of Divine favour would disperse those clouds, and he became more animated and courageous as others became sad and fearful. He continued to think, that to get possession of New-York would be of more importance than any thing that he could venture to at-

tempt, and he used every effort to make preparations for doing so.

He formed a plan, which he communicated to the French admiral, who was at Newport, and who agreed to assist him in performing it; and he earnestly urged each state to hasten the march of those troops which were promised to him. All that depended on his own exertions, was performed with active perseverance, but the expected troops were delayed, and when they arrived and he was ready to execute his favourite plan, the French admiral wrote to him, that he could not venture to take his heavy ships into New-York bay, and had resolved to sail for the Chesapeake; but there he could not remain long, as he had been directed by his own government to return to the West Indies.

This information was severely trying to General Washington, as it disappointed his expectations of assistance from the fleet, and obliged him to give up a plan which he was ready to execute, and from which he hoped to gain the most important success in freeing his suffering country from its enemies.

Every one, who with piety notices the providences of God, can know, that our best blessings are often hid beneath our disappointments, as sweet flowers are concealed in bitter buds. Washington experienced this in the important effects which resulted from

his being obliged to bid farewell to all hopes of being assisted in his long cherished plan of attacking New-York. He was unwillingly forced to form another, which proved far more advantageous to the interests of his country than that would have been.

Mr. Peters, one of the commissioners of the board of war, was at the camp when the letter from the admiral was received; he

August. said that General Washington gave it to him to read, and showed strong marks of anger; that he left him for a short time, and on returning to him, he had cause to admire, as he often had done, how perfectly General Washington controlled his naturally hasty temper. He was as calm as if nothing had occurred to disturb him, and began immediately to form a new plan, without wasting the important moments in useless regrets. He determined on moving his army as quickly and secretly as possible to Virginia, before Sir Henry Clinton should suspect his design and send aid to Cornwallis.

When he informed Mr. Peters, and Mr. Robert Morris, the other commissioner of the board of war, who was at the camp, that his new plan was formed, and said, "What can you do for us under the present change of circumstances?" Mr. Peters said, "Inform me of the extent of your wants; I can do everything with money,—nothing without it." As he

said this, he looked at Mr. Morris, who said, "I understand you;—I must have time to consider and calculate." They knew the difficulty of obtaining the money; and when they had left Philadelphia, there was so little in the treasury chest, that Mr. Peters could not venture to take enough out of it to pay the expense of his journey to the camp. He returned to that city, and set to work industriously to prepare what General Washington had told him he should need.

In a very short time, almost two hundred pieces of artillery and all the necessary ammunition, were prepared and sent off to Virginia. All the expense of this, as well as of the provision for and pay of the troops, was defrayed by Mr. Morris, who gave notes for the promise of payment, to the amount of one million and four hundred thousand dollars, which were afterwards all paid.

General Washington informed La Fayette of his intention to come to Virginia, and desired him to do all in his power to prevent Cornwallis from saving himself by a sudden march to Charleston.

## CHAPTER VIII.

The movements of the army were so as to lead the enemy in New-York to think, that General Washington was preparing to attack that place; and Sir Henry Clinton had no suspicion of his intention to march to Virginia, until the army had crossed the Delaware river, and it was then too late for him to attempt to stop the progress of the active troops.

With the hope of inducing Washington to return for the defence of Connecticut, Sir Henry sent to that state a strong detachment of troops, in a fleet of transports; they were commanded by Arnold, who had just returned from Virginia.

The march of Washington was not prevented by this movement of the enemy, but he advanced towards Virginia with all the speed that was possible, and had the satisfaction of hearing, when he arrived at Ches-

Sept. 5. ter, that the French fleet was in the Chesapeake. He gave directions to his officers to bring on the troops with quickness, and went himself to visit the admiral, and propose to him a plan for giving his assistance in an attack on the army of Cornwallis.

When this was agreed to by the admiral, Washington waited anxiously for the arrival of his army, and was again vexatiously alarmed by the admiral informing him that he would leave a few frigates, and sail away with the rest of his fleet to seek for the British fleet, which he had heard had left the harbour of New-York. Washington used every argument that he thought would influence him to give up this intention, and at length was successful in his persuasions.

When Cornwallis had heard of the French fleet appearing in the Chesapeake, he had drawn all his troops together at Yorktown; and with great activity and toil, they had raised fortifications for their defence.

The town is situated on a slip of land, about eight miles wide, between the James and York rivers. Opposite to the town, on the north side of York river, is Gloucester Point, which projects into the river so as to make it only one mile in width at that place. Colonel Tarlton, with seven hundred men, was posted on Gloucester Point. The southern banks of the river are high; some batteries had been constructed on them by Virginia troops, who had been stationed there some time before. Cornwallis manned these batteries, and the main body of his army was encamped around Yorktown, within a range of field works, raised for their defence.



The communication between Yorktown and Gloucester Point, was defended by the batteries on shore, and by several British ships of war, which could ride in safety in the broad and deep York river.

On the 25th of September, the last division of Washington's army arrived at the landing near Williamsburgh, on the James river. They were allowed two days for rest, and on the 28th, moved towards Yorktown. A detachment of French and American troops were directed to watch and restrain Tarlton, and the main body of the army was moved down on the south side of the York river, towards Yorktown. The next day was employed in preparing for the siege. In the course of the night, Cornwallis withdrew within his inner lines of defence, and the next day they were possessed by the besieging army, which then closely invested the town on that side. General La Fayette had joined Washington with the troops under his command.

Washington displayed his military talent and sound judgment in directing every movement that was to be made, and the siege was carried on with great rapidity.

When places of defence which the English had raised at some distance from the town were destroyed, and they were driven back to seek for safety within the entrenchments which they had formed immediately around



it, Cornwallis finding himself so closely pressed resolved to attempt escaping; and under cover of the shades of night, he succeeded in sending several boats filled with troops across the York river to Gloucester Point; but when these troops were landed, a violent storm suddenly arose, and drove the boats down the stream; daylight began to dawn before they could be recovered, and then it was necessary to use them for the return of the few troops which had been landed, as it was impossible to send the rest of the army by the light of day, which would show the movement to those Americans who were posted near Gloucester.

Thus disappointed, and without any reasonable cause for even a hope that he could save his army, Cornwallis wrote to General Washington, to request that all hostilities might cease for twenty-four hours, during which time he would inform him on what terms he would surrender. Washington informed him that it was his ardent desire to spare the shedding of blood, and that he would listen with readiness to such terms as could be accepted; but requested that they might be made known immediately in writing, and that would prevent useless delay, as he could quickly determine if he would agree to them.

Some of the proposals of Cornwallis, Washington could not consent to, and he

wrote down the terms on which he expected him to surrender, and said he would not change them. Those terms were:—that all the army, with their arms and military stores, and all the ships and seamen, were to be delivered up. The soldiers were to remain, with a few officers, in America; and the rest of the officers were to be permitted to return to Europe on parole or assurance from them that they would not serve again against the Americans. Cornwallis was to be allowed to send a ship unsearched to New-York, to carry any papers which he chose to send there. These terms were accepted by the English general, and on the 19th of October, in the year 1781, the whole army of Cornwallis, who had been for so long a time the cause of distress and terror in the southern states, marched out of Yorktown, as prisoners of war. General Lincoln was appointed by General Washington to receive the submission of the conquered army, in the same manner in which Cornwallis had received that of the American army, on the 12th of May, 1780, at Charleston.

While the troops of Cornwallis were marching out of the town, with cased colours and drums beating the sad sound of defeat, Washington said to his troops, “My brave fellows, let no sensation of satisfaction for the triumph you have gained, in-

duce you to insult a fallen enemy;—let no shouting—no clamorous huzzaing, increase their mortification. It is a sufficient satisfaction to us, that we witness their humiliation. Posterity will huzza for us!”

On the day after the surrender, he ordered that all who were under arrest should be set at liberty, and he closed his order with the direction—“Divine service shall be performed to-morrow in the different divisions of the army; and the commander-in-chief recommends, that all the troops that are not upon duty do assist at it, with a serious deportment, and that sensibility of heart, which the recollection of the surprising and particular interposition of Divine Providence in our favour, claims.”

The capture of a formidable army, which had been moving with destructive power over more than eleven hundred miles of their country, was to the Americans a cause of heartfelt joy and thankfulness. The news was received at Philadelphia at night, and an aged watchman, who heard it, walked his round with a quick step, and sung out, with a strengthened and glad voice, “Past one o’clock—and Cornwallis is taken!”

Congress heard the tidings with grateful sensations, and went in solemn procession to a place of worship, to return thanks to God for this deliverance from powerful foes; they also appointed the 13th day of Decem-

ber, as a day of general thanksgiving and prayer.

In South Carolina and Georgia, the campaign of 1781 had been a very active one. A line of posts had been continued by the English, from Charleston, by the way of Camden and Ninety-Six, in South Carolina, to Augusta, in Georgia. General Sumpter and General Marion kept up a resistance with a few militia, and moved so quickly, that the English commander could not succeed in defeating them. Gen. Greene formed the bold resolution of recovering Georgia. He had about eighteen hundred men, and his prospect of procuring food for them was not very promising; but he believed it to be for the interest of his country to make the attempt. He sent Colonel Lee with a detachment to join Marion, and requested General Pikes to assemble the western militia of South Carolina, and lay siege to Ninety-Six and Augusta, while he moved from his camp on Deep river to Camden, where he arrived on the 19th of April. Being unable to storm the works or surround them, he encamped near Camden, with the hope of having some additional troops of militia to aid him. On the 25th of April, he had withdrawn his troops to Hobkirk's hill, about a mile from Camden, and the English general, Rawdon, marched out to attack him. Although this attack was un-

expected, the Americans were soon ready to meet it, and General Greene had every prospect of success, when his hopes were destroyed by one of his regiments being thrown into confusion; the English commander took advantage of this with so much activity, that Greene soon perceived that to save his troops from a total defeat he must retreat, which he did to a place about four miles from the field of battle. The pursuit was only continued for three miles.

Colonel Lee had joined Marion, in South Carolina, and they attacked Fort Watson, on the Santee river, and succeeded in obliging the garrison to surrender.

A garrison had been placed in the dwelling house of Mrs. Motte, situated on the south side of the Congaree river, near its junction with the Wateree; this was a very important post, as all the provisions intended for the army at Camden were deposited there. Marion and Lee determined to endeavour to drive the garrison from it, and Lee informed Mrs. Motte, who was in the neighbourhood, that they could not succeed without entirely destroying her house. She replied, "The sacrifice of my property is nothing; and I shall view its destruction with delight, if it shall in any degree contribute to the good of my country." She then gave him an Indian bow and arrows, which had been kept as a curiosity in her

May 8. family; with these, lighted torches were shot upon her house, which took fire, and thus the enemy were driven from it. Lee then marched against Fort Granby, on the Congaree, and forced a garrison of three hundred and fifty men to surrender, while Marion marched against Georgetown, on the Black river, which place he reduced.

After the battle of Hobkirk's hill, General Greene had continued for a short time near Camden; but on hearing that Rawdon had received an addition to his force of some troops from the north-eastern part of the state, Greene moved his camp to a safe position behind Sawney's Creek. Rawdon followed him, and tried to draw him from his favourable situation; but finding that he could not succeed, he returned to Camden, and in a few days after destroyed the military works there and marched his army to Nielson's Ferry, where he crossed the Santee river, and moved to Monk's Corner.

While he was thus retiring, General May 22. Greene marched to besiege the town of Ninety-Six. Rawdon, on hearing of this, moved for the defence of the town. Greene used great efforts to get possession of it before Rawdon should arrive, but he was not successful, and was obliged to retreat from it. The two armies continued for some time approaching each

other, and then again retreating, without coming to an action; but detachments from each made frequent attacks on the other; and in those attacks the Americans were very successful. The whole army had shown great activity and courage. Though defeated in two battles, and obliged to retreat from Ninety-Six, it had always kept the field, and without gaining one victory, had confined the English power in the southern states to the seacoast, and country between the Santee, the Congaree, and the Edisto rivers.

In July the intense heat of the climate made it necessary for General Greene to give his troops some rest, and he moved them to the high hills of Santee for that purpose. There he was joined by some troops from North Carolina. In August he determined on once more risking an action with the English army, and for that purpose, on the 22d, he crossed the Wateree, near Camden, and proceeded to Friday's Ferry, on the Congaree, where he was joined by General Pikens with the militia, and by some state troops of South Carolina, commanded by Colonel Henderson. On hearing of his approach, the English moved to the Eutaw Springs, on the Santee, and there on the 8th of September, a severe action commenced, and was continued for some time with great warmth and boldness on both sides. At length the contest ceased,

and both armies claimed the victory. In November the English retired to Charleston Neck, and to the islands near that city.

When General Greene had entered South Carolina, he found it completely conquered and defended by a regular army; by a course which was courageous but prudent, he recovered the southern states, and at the close of the year 1781, they were again under their own government. The power which the English had possessed; the rigour with which they exercised it on all who seemed disposed to resist; the feelings of sorrow or resentment which were excited in neighbourhoods and families, by some of the members being driven by fear to join the enemies of their country; and the severity with which such were treated if they repented, caused war to be more full of calamities to the inhabitants of the southern states than to those of any other portion of the country.



## CHAPTER IX.

When General Washington had performed all the duties which the surrender of Cornwallis rendered necessary, before he could leave Yorktown, he went to visit his respected and aged mother, whom he had not seen for more than six years. At the commencement of the war, he had with anxious tenderness, removed her to the village of Fredericksburgh, where he thought she would be comfortable and distant from danger; and from that time, he had not been at liberty to visit his native state, as his services were required by his country every day, and indeed every moment. He was careful to send constantly to his parent, an account of himself and the situation of public affairs, and she received all such intelligence with a calm confidence in the wisdom and mercy of God, which prevented her being depressed by the news of losses that frequently reached her ears. When she heard of the success of her son in the December of 1776, (when he crossed the Delaware and marched to Princeton,) she said, "George appears to have deserved well of his country;" and when her neighbours pressed around her with letters that they had re-

ceived, full of his praises, she said, "Here is too much flattery;—still George will not forget the lessons I early taught him;—he will not *forget himself*, though he is the subject of so much praise."

Washington knew that it would be no gratification to this good and strong minded mother to see him surrounded by attendants, or to have his approach made known by any kind of parade. He therefore left the officers who rode with him, and dismounting from his horse, alone, and on foot, he went to her residence. When he entered it, he found her usefully employed. Her aged arms were quickly and tenderly thrown around him, and her eyes soon observed the marks of toil and care on his changed countenance. She called him by an endearing name, which he well remembered she had always used when in his childhood he deserved her approbation; and she anxiously questioned him on the state of his health, talked of old times and old friends, but spoke not one word on the subject of his renown, or of the praise which his countrymen were giving him for his noble conduct.

When he left this revered parent, he went to his long forsaken home. Mrs. Washington was then there. She had been with him through each winter, and as she said, had "heard the first cannon on the opening,

and the last at the close of every campaign of the war."

When Washington was favoured with some success in any undertaking, he did not become less diligent in his efforts to complete it, and he wrote to General Greene, "I shall endeavour to stimulate Congress to the best improvement of our late success, by taking the most vigorous and effectual measures to be ready for an early and decisive campaign the next year. My greatest fear is, that viewing this stroke in a point of light which may too much magnify its importance, they may think our work too nearly closed, and fall into a state of languor and relaxation. To prevent this error, I shall employ every means in my power; and if unhappily we sink into this fatal mistake, no part of the blame shall be mine."

He went to Philadelphia and was successful in his wishes. Congress immediately passed resolutions which satisfied him, and he wrote to the different states to urge a faithful compliance with these resolutions. The army was placed in winter quarters, and Washington became anxiously engaged in preparations for the duties of the spring.

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Nov.

On the 1st of January, 1782, there was not one dollar in the public treasury, and from the delay in collecting the taxes, Washington knew that there could be no hope of

a supply for several months. Mr. Robert Morris, the officer who superintended this business, wrote in great distress to Washington, and said, "This candid state of my situation and feelings I give to your bosom, because you, who have already felt and suffered so much, will be able to sympathize with me."

While Washington was using every effort to hasten the collection of the money which would be necessary for the subsistence of his army, an account came from England that a proposal had been made in Parliament to make offers of peace. Wash-

ington had little confidence in the probability of this proposition being agreed to by the English government, and he endeavoured to prevent his countrymen being deceived into security by a false expectation. Early in May, however, an English commander, Sir Guy Carlton, arrived in New-York, and wrote to General Washington and to Congress, that Parliament had determined on offering to conclude a peace, or truce, with the *revolted colonies* of North America; but as no intimation was given that he had the power to propose any other terms than those which had been before rejected, Congress declined giving him a passport for himself and Admiral Digby, whom, he informed them,

were appointed to make known to them, in person, the resolutions of Parliament.

The English general made no attempt through the summer to commence hostilities, and the state of the American army was such as to prevent General Washington from making any attack on that of the enemy.

In August Sir Guy Carlton gave Washington the information that Parliament had sent a minister to Paris, who had the power to treat with all the parties at war, and that proposals for a general peace were then under consideration; and that the minister had been directed to offer, in the first place, that the independence of the "Thirteen Provinces" should be acknowledged.

The American commissioners, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, John Jay, and Henry Laurens, who were in Paris, received the proposals for peace, and by acting with wisdom and firmness, they formed a treaty which satisfied every reasonable demand of America. This was signed on the 30th of November, 1782, but it was not to be considered as entirely concluded, until a treaty should be formed between England and France, which was done on the 20th of January, 1783.

When the American army had the expectation of soon being dismissed from service, they became anxious about the pay that was

due to them, and which was absolutely necessary to enable them to return to their families. A very artful address was

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March 10. circulated in the camp on the Hudson river, for the purpose of inducing them to form some desperate resolutions to force the government to a compliance with their demand for payment. The address was accompanied by an invitation to all the officers to meet on the next day, and take the subject into consideration. Washington was in camp, and his firmness and judgment did not forsake him on this important occasion. In his general orders he noticed the address, and expressed his belief, that the good sense of the officers would prevent their "paying any attention to such an irregular invitation," but invited them to meet on another day, when, he said, they could deliberate on what course they ought to pursue.

Before that day arrived, he conversed separately with the officers, and used his influence to lead them to adopt measures which he intended to propose. When they were assembled, he addressed them in a calm, solemn, and affectionate manner; entreating them to disregard the secret efforts that were made to induce them to act disgracefully. He said, "As I have never left your side one moment, but when called from you by public duty; as I have been the constant

companion and witness of your distresses, and not among the last to feel and acknowledge your merits; as I have ever considered my own military reputation as inseparably connected with that of the army; as my heart has ever expanded with joy, when I have heard its praises, and my indignation has arisen when the mouth of detraction has been opened against it, it can scarcely be supposed at this last stage of the war that I am indifferent to its interests. With respect to the advice given by the author of the address to ‘suspect the man who shall recommend moderate measures and longer forbearance,’ I spurn it, as every man who regards that liberty and reveres that justice for which we contend, undoubtedly must; for if men are to be precluded from offering their sentiments on a matter which may involve the most serious and alarming consequences that can invite the consideration of mankind, reason is of no use to us. It is my decided opinion, that Congress entertain exalted sentiments of the services of the army, and from a full conviction of its merits and sufferings, will do it complete justice.”

He assured the army, that as far as was consistent with the great duty which he owed his country, and to those powers they were all bound to respect, they might freely command his services to obtain for them the just reward of their toils. He said, “Let me

entreat you, on your part, not to take any measures which in the calm light of reason will lessen the dignity and sully the glory you have hitherto maintained; and let me conjure you to express the utmost horror and detestation of the man who wishes, under any specious pretences, to overturn the liberties of our country, and who wickedly attempts to open the floodgates of civil discord, and deluge our rising empire in blood. By thus determining, and thus acting, you will pursue a plain and direct road to the accomplishment of your wishes; you will defeat the insidious designs of our enemies, who are compelled to resort from open force to secret artifice. You will give one more distinguished proof of unexampled patriotism and patient virtue, rising superior to the pressure of the most complicated sufferings."

This address from one whom they loved and had been accustomed to obey,—in whose judgment and affection they had perfect confidence, could not fail to influence the army, and the officers immediately formed resolutions which satisfied their anxious commander, and proved the strength of their respect for his advice. He wrote to Congress an account of what had occurred; and earnestly entreated that the just demands of the army might be immediately attended to, and that provision might be made for a further



compensation than the mere pay which was due to the officers. He said, "If (as has been suggested for the purpose of inflaming their passions,) the officers of the army are to be the only sufferers by this revolution; if retiring from the field they are to grow old in poverty, wretchedness and contempt, and owe the miserable remnant of that life to charity, which has hitherto been spent in honour, then shall I have learned what ingratitude is; then shall I have realized a tale which will embitter every moment of my future life."

Congress received a petition from the officers, and then formed a resolution, that in addition to the pay due to them, they should receive full pay for five years; but it would be some time they knew before the money could be raised. The officers were satisfied with the promise, and in the course of the summer a large portion of the troops returned to their homes. In October Congress declared, that all those who had engaged to serve through the war, should be discharged on the 3d of December.

A few new recruits, who were stationed at Lancaster, marched to Philadelphia and placed sentinels at the doors of the State-House, where Congress were sitting, and threatened to attack them if their demands for pay were not granted within

twenty minutes. They did not perform their threat, but kept Congress as prisoners for three hours.

When General Washington heard of this outrage he sent fifteen hundred men to quell the mutineers, but this had been done without any blood being shed before the troops arrived. He wrote to Congress that he felt much distressed on hearing of the insult which had been offered by these "soldiers of a day;" and contrasted their conduct with that of the soldiers who had "borne the heat and burden of the war." "Veterans," he said, "who have patiently endured nakedness, hunger and cold; who have suffered and bled without a murmur, and who with perfect good order have retired to their homes without a settlement of their accounts, or a farthing of money in their pockets: we are as much astonished at the virtues of the latter, as we are struck with horror and detestation at the proceedings of the former."

The seeds of freedom which had been sown in sad weakness, and guarded with painful toils through eight years, produced a rich harvest in the joyful sounds of *independence* and *peace*, which spread quickly over the United States; and every American heart had cause to say, with humble gratitude, to the Great Ruler of events, "O thou that savest by thy right hand them that put their

trust in thee, from those that rise up against them. Thou hast been our helper."

When General Washington had proclaimed to his army on the 19th of April, the tidings of a universal peace, he said, "on such a happy day, which is the harbinger of peace; a day which completes the eighth year of the war, it would be ingratitude not to rejoice, it would be insensibility not to participate in the general felicity;" and he directed that the Chaplains, with their several brigades, should "render thanks to Almighty God for all his mercies, particularly for his overruling the wrath of man to his own glory; and causing the rage of war to cease among the nations." When he dismissed the troops from service on the 2d of November, he gave them serious and affectionate advice as to their future conduct; and assured them that he should recommend them to their grateful country, and in his prayers "to the God of armies." Earnestly desiring that his countrymen might secure a continuance of the favour of heaven, he wrote an address to the governors of the different states, which address he said he wished them to consider as "the legacy of one who had ardently desired on all occasions to be useful to his country; and who, even in the shade of retirement, would not fail to implore the divine benediction upon it." The address contained important and wise counsel, and he

concluded it with the assurance, "I now make it my earnest prayer, that God would have you and the state over which you preside, in his holy protection, and that he would incline the hearts of the citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination, and obedience to government, and to entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another; for their fellow citizens of the United States at large, and particularly for their brethren who have served in the field; and finally, that he would be most graciously pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility, and pacific temper of mind, which were the characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed religion; without an humble imitation of whose example in these things, we can never hope to be a happy nation."

In November all the English troops left New-York, and General Washington entered it accompanied by Governor Clinton and a number of American officers. He remained there until December, and when the day arrived on which he had determined to leave it, the officers of the army assembled to bid him farewell. When their loved commander entered the room in which they were, he could not speak for several moments; but, when he had calmed his strong feelings, he said, "with a heart full of love and gratitude

I now take leave of you; I most devoutly wish that your latter days may be as prosperous and happy as your former have been honourable. I cannot come to each of you to take my leave, but shall be obliged to you if each of you will come and take me by the hand." General Knox, who was nearest to him, turned, and Washington took his hand, and then put his arms around him, and in the same affectionate manner embraced each officer. A tear from the heart filled every eye, but no word could be uttered to break the silence of the affecting scene. Washington left the room, and the officers followed him in noiseless procession, and with sad countenances to the boat which was to convey him away from them. The witnesses of this deeply interesting scene were very numerous, but no sound disturbed its impressive silence. Washington stepped into the boat, and turning towards the shore waved his hat without speaking; the officers returned the same last farewell, and continued to gaze after their revered commander until they could no longer distinguish his form, and they then returned in sadness to the place where they had assembled.

Washington could not enjoy rest until he had performed all the duties which his upright mind dictated, and he proceeded to Philadelphia to give an account of the manner in which he had expended the public

money. All his accounts were written by himself, and every entry made in the most exact manner, so as to give the least trouble in comparing them with the receipts which accompanied them. He made no charge for his services, but had spent a considerable portion of his own fortune. The regularity, and minuteness with which he had kept an account of every sum received and expended during eight years, and the faithfulness with which he had, in the midst of his many employments, attended to having the public money used in the most economical and advantageous manner, proved that he had a right to the noble title of *an honest man*. If he had not merited that, all his other titles would have been without value. From Philadelphia he proceeded to Annapolis, where Congress were sitting, and there he proved that he was a patriot, by giving back the power which had been placed in his hands, when he could no longer use it for the benefit of his country. Congress appointed the 23d of December for receiving his resignation, and a crowd of spectators witnessed the interesting ceremony. He was received by Congress as the "founder and guardian of the republic." Feeling the importance of the blessings of freedom and peace which the Great Ruler of the universe had made Washington an instrument to obtain for them, they looked at him, when

about to resign his power, with emotions of admiration and gratitude; and recollecting how closely they had been connected with him in scenes of distress and danger, sensations of affectionate tenderness were excited; there were few eyes unwet with a tear, and on the cheek of Washington was seen a falling drop. With unambitious dignity he rose and addressed General Mifflin, the President of Congress. He said, "I resign with satisfaction the appointment I accepted with diffidence; a diffidence in my abilities to accomplish so arduous a task, which, however, was superseded by a confidence in the rectitude of our cause, the support of the supreme power of the union and the patronage of heaven. The successful termination of the war has verified the most sanguine expectations; and my gratitude for the interposition of Providence, and the assistance I have received from my countrymen, increases with every review of the momentous contest. \* \* \* I consider it as an indispensable duty to close this last act of my official life, by commending the interests of our dearest country to the protection of Almighty God, and those who have the superintendence of them to his holy keeping. Having now finished the work assigned me, I retire from the great theatre of action, and bidding an affectionate farewell to this august body, under whose orders I have so



long acted, I here offer my commission, and take my leave of all the employments of public life." He then gave his commission to the President, who, when he had received it, answered him in the name of Congress, and said, "Having defended the standard of liberty in this new world: having taught a lesson useful to those who inflict, and those who feel oppression, you retire from the great theatre of action with the blessings of your fellow citizens; but the glory of your virtues will not terminate with your military command; it will continue to animate remotest ages. We join you in commending the interests of our dearest country to the protection of Almighty God, beseeching him to dispose the hearts and minds of its citizens to improve the opportunity afforded to them of becoming a happy and respectable nation. And for you, we address to Him our earnest prayers, that a life so beloved may be fostered with all his care; that your days may be as happy as they have been illustrious; and that he will finally give you that reward which this world cannot give."

When Washington had thus resigned the title of "Commander in Chief," he took that of private citizen, and retired to his peaceful home. The satisfaction he felt in doing so was expressed in a letter to his friend, La Fayette, who had returned to France soon after the surrender of Cornwallis. Wash-



ington wrote to him, "At length I have become a private citizen, on the banks of the Potomac, and under the shade of my 'own vine and my own fig-tree,' and free from the bustle of a camp and the busy cares of public life. I have not only retired from all public employments, but am retiring within myself, and shall be able to view the solitary walk, and tread the paths of private life, with heartfelt satisfaction."

To General Knox he thus expressed himself:—"I feel now, as I conceive a weary traveller must do, who, after treading many a painful step, with a heavy burden on his shoulders, is eased of the latter, having reached the haven to which all the former were directed,—and from his house-top, in looking back and tracing with eager eye, the meanders by which he has escaped the quicksands and mires which lay in his way, and into which, none but the all-powerful Guide and Dispenser of human events, could have prevented his falling."

For several months after his return home, he received, almost every day, addresses from all parts of the union, expressing the affection and gratitude of his countrymen. He deserved this, and no doubt was gratified by it; but the praise of man had no ill effect on his modest mind. For a little time, when he awoke in the morning, he would forget that he was in

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1787.

his peaceful home, and as he had been accustomed to do, would begin to think of what orders he should give his army, or what public business he should transact during the day; but he soon interested himself in the cultivation of his farm, and in assisting his neighbours to improve theirs; and for this purpose wrote to England to obtain the best information as to all the improvements which were discovered there in agriculture.

When the English ceased to act as enemies of his country, Washington did not weakly cherish against them feelings of resentment. His liberal mind was willing to acknowledge their national greatness and usefulness, and his was a heart that could estimate the virtues of those individuals of the nation who have devoted their lives to the promotion of the temporal and eternal interests of their fellow beings.

He travelled for a short time through those parts of his country with which he was unacquainted, and on his return, said he had new cause for acknowledging "the goodness of that Providence which has dealt his favours to us with so profuse a hand." He was desirous that these gracious gifts should not be neglected, and he formed plans for improving the navigation of some of the extensive rivers which flow through his country, and succeeded in having two com-

panies formed for improving that of the James and Potomac rivers. The legislature of Virginia subscribed for the same number of shares for Washington, in each company, that were to be taken for the state, and informed him that they had done so. He assured them, that he was strongly affected by this public proof of approbation, but must decline accepting it, as he had determined never to change the resolution which he had formed when he entered into public service, "to shut his hand against every pecuniary recompense;" but he proposed to the legislature, that the shares intended for him should be given to some public institution, and they were given to two schools; one of which was near the Potomac, and the other near James river.

General La Fayette again crossed the ocean, and visited Mount Vernon, and no doubt passed some interesting hours with his friend Washington,

"Tracing, as in a map the voyager his course,  
The windings of their way through toilsome years."

But those hours of social enjoyment were few, for these friends were soon again engaged in public scenes and cares. Before La Fayette returned to France, he visited the mother of Washington, to bid her farewell and ask her blessing. She received him

kindly, and talked with him of the happy prospects of her country, and of the conduct of her virtuous son, whom La Fayette praised with the warmth of strong attachment.

She listened calmly to him, and then replied, "*I am not surprised at what George has done, for he was always a very good boy.*"

On leaving this venerable woman, La Fayette asked and received her blessing, and bade her a last farewell. When he took leave of his friend, he indulged a lively hope that they would once more meet; but when again he visited America, he was received as the "Nation's Guest," and instead of being welcomed to Mount Vernon by the smiles of Washington, he was led to his humble tomb to shed tears of sorrow.

Desiring anxiously that his native country should be freed from the tyrannical government which oppressed it, La Fayette felt a deep interest in the revolution which soon commenced in France; but his heart must have been pained by the manner in which it was conducted. In the attempt to throw off the oppression of man, the restraints of morality were cast away, and human passions raged uncontrolled. The consequences were dreadful; the tenderest ties of nature were disregarded,—the truths of religion were denied, and liberty was worshipped instead of God.

Young Americans! as you grow up to manhood, and enjoy the great blessing of freedom from all unjust and oppressive laws of man, beware of wishing to be free from the just and righteous laws of your Creator, lest you bring upon yourselves, as a nation, the displeasure of him whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and whose "dominion endureth throughout all generations." To those who will not obey him, he has said, "I will bring evil upon this people, even the fruit of their thoughts, because they have not hearkened unto my word, nor to my law, but have rejected it." While you are exercising what you call liberty of conscience, remember the assurance of him who "taught as one having authority:"—"If ye *continue in my word* ye shall know the *truth*, and the *truth* shall make you *free*; verily, verily, I say unto you, whosoever committeth *sin* is the *servant* of sin."

After the Americans obtained independence, those who thought wisely on public affairs were soon convinced that the "Articles of Confederation," which had united the states in time of war, would not bind them together in harmony under one government in time of peace.

Congress had borrowed money from the French nation during the war, and they were also in debt to the officers of the army, and to other Americans; and were unable to pay

even the interest of the money due, because they did not possess the power to tax the people, or to lay duties on imported goods. Some of the states attempted to keep up their own credit by laying taxes for the purpose of paying their proportion of the public debt; but the inhabitants of those states became discontented and jealous; and in Massachusetts many refused to pay the taxes, and became violent in their opposition to the state government.

The advice of Washington, at the close of the war, had been too soon forgotten. He had said then to his countrymen, "The path of duty is plain before us. Let us as a nation be just; let us fulfil the public contracts, which Congress had undoubtedly a right to make for the purpose of carrying on the war, with the same good faith we suppose ourselves bound to perform our private engagements."

From his retirement he watched with deep interest the conduct of his countrymen, and began to feel painfully alarmed lest they should disgrace themselves as a nation. He corresponded on the subject with the wise American patriots, who used all their influence to convince the people that it was necessary for the credit and prosperity of their country, to give more power to Congress and to strengthen the bond of union. There was a great variety of opinions on

the subject, but at length all the states, except Rhode Island, agreed to choose members for a convention to plan a better form of national government. Virginia placed Washington first on the list of members, and when the governor, Mr. Randolph, informed him of this, he said, "I entreat you to accept the unanimous appointment of the General Assembly to the Convention at Philadelphia; for the gloomy prospect still admits one ray of hope, that those who began, carried on, and consummated the revolution, can yet rescue America from the impending ruin."

On the second Monday in May, 1787, the Convention met at Philadelphia, and chose Washington as its president; and after long and serious consultation on the important subject, that Constitution was formed under which, by the favour of a gracious Providence, the United States have become so prosperous, and the American nation so happy and respectable. It was signed by the delegates from twelve states, on the 17th of September, in the same year; and so soon as it was made known to the people, they were all of one opinion, that Washington was the man most worthy to be the President of the United States. One of his friends, Colonel Lee, who had an opportunity of hearing the wishes which were universally expressed by his countrymen, wrote to Wash-



ington, to entreat that he would not suffer his love of private life to prevent his consenting to engage again in public duties; and added, "If the same success should attend your efforts on this important occasion which has distinguished you hitherto, then to be sure you will have spent a life which Providence rarely, if ever, gave to the lot of one man."

The ardent La Fayette wrote to Washington on the subject, and in his reply he said, "If I know my own heart, nothing short of a conviction of duty will induce me again to take an active part in public affairs. And in that case, if I can form a plan for my own conduct, my endeavours shall be unremittingly exerted (even at the hazard of former fame or present popularity) to extricate my country from the embarrassments in which it is entangled through want of credit; and to establish a general system of policy, which, if pursued, will ensure perfect felicity to the commonwealth. I think I see a path clear as a ray of light, which leads to the attainment of that object."

When the votes for the first president of the United States were given, not one was wanting to prove that Washington was the unanimous choice of the people.

On the 14th of April, 1789, the fifty-seventh year of his age, Congress informed him of his appointment, and he accepted it,



because it was the call of his countrymen to serve them. On this occasion, he wrote to one of his friends sentiments which showed the dignity and modesty of his character; he said, "I am unwilling in the evening of a life, nearly consumed in public cares, to quit a peaceful abode for an ocean of difficulties, without the competency of political skill, abilities and inclination, which are necessary to manage the helm. I am sensible that I am embarking the voice of the people and a good name of my own, on this voyage; but what returns will be made for them, Heaven alone can foretell,—integrity and firmness are all I can promise; these, be the voyage long or short, shall never forsake me, although I may be deserted by all men; for of the consolations which are to be derived from these under any circumstances, the world cannot deprive me." He knew that fickle men might withdraw the honours which they had given to him, but virtue, the gift of his adored Creator, he felt man had no power to take from him.

He visited his respected mother to inform her of his appointment. He had endeavoured to prevail on her to make Mount Vernon the home of her latter years; but she would not consent to leave her humble dwelling, which was particularly dear to her from having near it a rural spot, made private by surrounding rocks and trees, where she

daily offered to her Creator her confessions and prayers. When her son told her he must bid her farewell, he said, "As soon as the weight of public business, which must necessarily attend the outset of a new government, can be disposed of, I shall return to Virginia, and"—"You will see me no more," said his mother, interrupting him, "My great age warns me, that I shall not be long in this world,—I trust in God that I may be somewhat prepared for a better. Go, George, go my son! and perform your duties, and may the blessing of God, and that of a mother, be with you always." She cast her feeble arms fondly around his neck, and resting his head on the shoulder of his aged parent, the truly great man shed tears of filial tenderness.

He parted from her with the sad feeling that he should indeed "see her no more," and in a short time, her eighty-five years of life closed in death; but her son could have the comforting hope, that she would be one of those happy beings to whom the word of truth gives the assurance, that after passing through "the dark valley of the shadow of death," where the Christian need "fear no evil," they shall partake of those sinless and endless enjoyments which "God hath prepared for them that love him."

## CHAPTER X.

In the middle of April, when his ploughs were busy furrowing his well cultivated corn ground,—when his grain and grass fields were clothed with fresh green, and his orchard was full of blossoms, which gave a fragrant promise of an abundance of good fruit, Washington was called by duty to bid farewell to his farm. He set off for New-York, the seat of government, and in the journal, which it was always his custom to keep, he wrote at the close of that day, thus: “About ten o’clock I bade adieu to Mount Vernon, to private life, and to domestic felicity, and with a mind oppressed with more anxious and painful sensations than I have words to express, set out for New-York,—with the best dispositions to render service to my country in obedience to its call, but with less hope of answering its expectations.” 1789.

His neighbours, and the citizens of Alexandria assembled, and met him on the road to attend him to that place where they invited him to eat a parting dinner with them. When he was leaving them to proceed on his journey, they said in their affectionate address to him, “Again your country com-

mands your care. The first, the best of citizens, must leave us. Our aged must lose their ornament,—our youth, their model,—our agriculture, its improver,—our commerce, its friend,—our academy, its protector,—our poor, their benefactor. Farewell! Go, and make a grateful people happy.—To that Being, who maketh and unmaketh at his will, we commend you; and after the accomplishment of the arduous business to which you are called, may he restore to us again the best of men, and the most beloved fellow citizen.”

After thanking them for their expressions of kindness, Washington said, in reply,—“The whole tenor of my life has been open to your inspection; and my past actions, rather than my present declarations, must be the pledge of my future conduct. All that now remains for me, is to commit myself and you to the protection of that beneficent Being, who on a former occasion, hath happily brought us together, after a long and distressing separation. Perhaps the same gracious Providence will again indulge me. Unutterable sensations must then be left to more expressive silence; while from an aching heart I bid you all, my affectionate friends and kind neighbours, farewell.”

He wished his journey to be private; but that wish was not to be gratified. Prepara-

tions were made in every town and village through which he was to pass, to give him proofs of the gratitude of his countrymen for his past services, and of their exulting confidence that his future ones would be blessings to them.

Philadelphia was illuminated, and the next day he was welcomed to Trenton with joy. On the bridge over the Assumpinck Creek, an arch had been erected and ornamented with laurels and flowers, and it was supported by thirteen pillars, entwined with wreaths of evergreen. On the front of the arch was inscribed, in large letters, the date of the first battle of Trenton, and of the day on which the American troops had made a bold stand on the borders of the Assumpinck, by which the progress of the English army had been stopped. Under this was written, "The defender of the mothers will be the protector of the daughters."

Washington left his carriage to walk over the bridge, and a company of young girls went before him, and strewed fresh flowers for his steps to press. These innocent, and heart-touching proofs of grateful respect, caused tears to roll down his toil-marked cheeks; and no doubt those of devout thankfulness were mingled with them, by the recollection of the peculiar manner in which he had experienced the aid of Divine Pro-

vidence on the spot over which he was passing.

At Elizabethtown a committee from Congress received him, and conducted him to the Point, where he entered a handsome boat, that had been prepared to convey him to New-York.

His return to that city was not in silence, April 23. as his departure from it had been; and in his journal he remarked, that the decorations of the ships, the music in the boats, the roar of the cannon, and the acclamations of the people, filled him with sensations not more pleasing than painful, as he thought how changed the scene might be "after all his labours to do good."

He was conducted to the residence prepared for him, with every possible expression of joy on the part of the people; but these flattering proofs of their attachment did not injure his judgment, or excite self-sufficiency. He received them with modest dignity, and a steady determination to endeavour to prove himself worthy of the high station he was called to take.

The 30th day of April was appointed for taking the solemn oath with which the Constitution requires the president to commence the duties of his important office. In the morning of that day, the clergymen of the city met their congregations, to unite in offering prayers to God for his blessing on the

people, and the president whom they had chosen.

The oath was administered by R. R. Livingston, Chancellor of the state of New-York, and the interesting ceremony was witnessed by a great concourse of people, for it was performed in an open gallery adjoining the senate chamber, and fronting Broad Street. All stood in solemn silence, until the oath was taken, and then when the chancellor proclaimed that WASHINGTON WAS THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, a shout of joy burst from many thousands of grateful and affectionate hearts. The president went into the senate chamber, and in a modest and affectionate but dignified manner, addressed the Senate and House of Representatives.

In the course of his address, he said, "It will be peculiarly improper to omit, in this first official act, my fervent supplications to that Almighty Being, who rules over the universe,—who presides in the councils of nations, and whose providential aid can supply every human defect,—that his benediction may consecrate to the liberties and happiness of the people of the United States, a government instituted by themselves for these essential purposes,—and may enable every instrument employed in its administration to execute with success the functions allotted to his charge. In tendering this



homage to the great Author of every public and private good, I assure myself that it expresses your sentiments not less than my own; nor those of my fellow citizens at large, less than either. No people can be bound to acknowledge and adore the invisible hand which conducts the affairs of men, more than the people of the United States. Every step by which they have advanced to the character of an independent nation, seems to have been distinguished by some token of providential agency."

In conclusion, he said, "I shall take my present leave, but not without resorting once more to the benign Parent of the human race, in humble supplication, that since he has been pleased to favour the American people with opportunities for deliberating in perfect tranquillity, and dispositions for deciding with unparalleled unanimity on a form of government for the security of their union and advancement of their happiness; so his divine blessing may be equally conspicuous, in the enlarged views, the temperate consultations, and wise measures, on which the success of this government must depend."

The Senate, in reply, expressed their high estimation of his wisdom and virtue, and said, "All that remains is that we join in your fervent supplications for the blessing of Heaven on our country; and that we add



our own for the choicest of those blessings on the most beloved of her citizens." The important ceremony of that day was closed with divine worship.

When Washington entered on the public duties of his office, he did not forget that judicious regulations were needful for the government of his own household. He made rules for his family which every member knew must not be disregarded. He directed that an account should be given to him every week, of the money that was expended. He wished to entertain with generous hospitality all visitors whom it was proper to receive; but he would not permit any needless expense. He thought that money could be used for far better purposes than the gratification of a love of rich food; and one day he ordered an expensive dish to be removed from his table, and desired that such should never be placed on it, adding, "my table must not set an example of extravagance." In making regulations for his family he remembered the Sabbath; he always attended a place of worship, and was not in the custom of receiving any visitors, except Mr. Trumbull, who was then Speaker of Congress, and afterwards the Governor of Connecticut. He was in the habit of spending an hour with the President on every Sabbath evening, and was so regular in the time of his visit, that the servants, by looking at the

clock, knew to a moment when to be ready to open the door to the "speaker's bell," as they called the door bell on Sunday evening, because no other hand than his then rung it.

The President did not return any visits, and appointed certain hours of two days in the week, for being visited by persons who had no business to transact with him. This caused displeasure, and there was much public talk on the subject. No male or female gossip ever ventured to tattle to him what was said in censure of his conduct, or of the conduct of others; but Dr. Stuart, an intimate friend, who was distressed to hear Washington found fault with, and was anxious that he should please every one, wrote to him, that many of the people who wished to visit him, thought that he ought to receive them at any hour in which they chose to come, and not on particular days only.

The president thought it was profitable to hear from a real friend the public opinion of his conduct, as by doing so, he might be led to a knowledge of errors which he was not conscious of. He said, in reply to his friend, "The man who means to commit no wrong will not be guilty of enormities, consequently can never be unwilling to learn what are ascribed to him as foibles. If they are really such, the knowledge of them in a well disposed mind, will go half way to a reform. If they are not errors, he can ex-

plain and justify the motives of his actions." He then told his friend how constantly he had been interrupted from morning to night by company; so that he had not time to attend to his public duties. That persons visited him who studied their own convenience more than his, and as he was resolved not to neglect public business, he had "adopted that line of conduct," which he thought, would "combine public advantage with private convenience." He said, "If I were to indulge my own inclination, every moment that I could withdraw from the fatigues of public duty, should be spent in retirement." "I have already had within less than a year, two severe attacks of disease, the last worse than the first; the third, it is more than probable, will put me to sleep with my fathers; at what distance this may be I know not."

All the important business attending the commencement of the new government was conducted with wisdom. When Congress adjourned the president prepared to visit New England; on the 15th of October he began his journey, and passing through Connecticut and Massachusetts went as far as Portsmouth, in New-Hampshire; returning by a different route to New-York. He had a favourable opportunity for observing the improvements of the important portion of his country through which he tra-

velled, and was in every place received with proofs of joy and attachment. Addresses were presented to him from all classes of people, expressing their gratitude for his past services, and their approbation of the manner in which the government was conducted.

He must have had his feelings deeply interested in visiting the scene of his first campaign, and contrasting it with his situation at the head of a prosperous nation. At Cambridge, the governor and council of Massachusetts met him and accompanied him to Boston; the selectmen received him at the entrance of the town, and a procession of the inhabitants was formed, which extended to the State-House, and he noticed with satisfaction, the children who made a part of the procession, conducted by their teachers. A triumphal arch was erected, and over it on one side, was the inscription, "To the man who unites all hearts;" and on the opposite side, "To Columbia's favourite son." To an affectionate address from the inhabitants of Boston, he replied, "I rejoice with you, my fellow citizens, in every circumstance that declares your prosperity; and I do so most cordially, because you have well deserved to be happy. Your love of liberty, your respect for the laws, your habits of industry, and your practice of the moral and religious obligations, are the

strongest claims to national and individual happiness. And they will, I trust, be firmly and lastingly established.

The president returned to New-York, and Congress again met on the 8th of January. They formed a plan for gradually paying off the public debts, and this subject employed them for a long time; they passed several acts of importance, and then determined that the seat of government should be removed to Philadelphia. This session of Congress continued until the 12th of August, when they adjourned. The health of the president had been injured by his close attention to public business, and he felt that a visit to Mount Vernon would refresh and strengthen him. He wished to travel as privately as possible, that he might not cause any interruption in the employments of the inhabitants of the country through which he passed. But when he thought that he was approaching the villages without being noticed, the villagers were ready to give him some proof of a joyful welcome; and supposing the probable time for his return, the school children were promised by their teachers, that they should see Washington if they would learn double tasks; most gladly did they do so, for a reward so highly valued. Colonel Proctor, an old officer of artillery, who lived on the road from Philadelphia to Mount Vernon, was al-

ways anxious to greet his loved commander with the sound of a cannon, but several times he passed unobserved; at length the old colonel said, "He shall not serve me so again; I'll warrant that my matches will be found lighted next time." At the Ferry of the Susquehannah, Colonel Rogers, a worthy veteran, was always ready, as the ferry-boat touched the shore, to take the hand of Mrs. Washington, and welcome her and the president to his hospitable home, where they always stopped to rest.

After a short indulgence in the enjoyment of rural sights and sounds, the president returned from Mount Vernon to meet Congress at Philadelphia. One important subject which engaged Congress at that session, was war with the Indians.

As early as the year 1736, Moravian Missionaries, having their "feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace," and taking no weapon but "the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God," visited the Indians, and carried to them "the glad tidings of great joy which shall be to all people." Their speech was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, they preached "Jesus Christ and him crucified;" and many of the wild rangers of the forest listened to the sound of the Gospel, and with some of their most ferocious chieftains, "put off the old man with his deeds, and

put on the new man which is renewed in knowledge after the image of Him that created him." All such buried the hatchet and scalping knife deep in the earth, formed settlements, cultivated the ground around them, and made spots in the wilderness to "blossom like the rose." One of those settlements in Pennsylvania was called Nain. A young Nantikok Indian visited it, and remained there for a month; on being taken ill afterwards, he called two of his brothers to him, and said to them, "in Nain they teach the right way to eternal life. There I have heard that our Creator became a man, died on the cross for our sins, was buried, rose again and went into heaven, and that whosoever believes in him shall not perish; but when he dies shall live with him for ever. If you wish to hear these good words go to Nain." He died praying with his last breath for pardon, and his brothers both went to Nain to hear "the good words" which he had received with faith and joy. Though thus the power of the Gospel was felt, and proved by the changed conduct of many of the Indians, yet their number was few compared with that of those who still roamed through the forests, and took advantage of every opportunity for attacking the inhabitants of the frontiers. Washington being well acquainted with the cruel manner in which the Indians conducted

their attacks, knew the sufferings to which his countrymen on the frontiers were exposed, and as he was never satisfied with merely feeling a sympathy in the distresses of his fellow beings, he used every means in his power to relieve them. He earnestly recommended to Congress to endeavour to form treaties with the Indians. He was "for peace," but the Indians were "for war." Troops were sent out against them, commanded by General Harmar, but these troops were defeated by the resistless ferocity of their savage foes, in a battle near

1791. Chilicothe. Congress then gave

the president the means of raising another army, and General Arthur St. Clair was appointed to the command of it.

After the president had made all the necessary arrangements for recruiting the army, he paid a visit to the southern states, and in passing through them, received the same proofs of grateful attachment as had been given to him in the northern and middle states.

The Senate and Congress had given to him the power of choosing a spot on which should be built a city for a seat of government, and he stopped at the Potomac for some days, and marked the place on which the city of Washington now stands. After his return from this journey, he said, in a letter to Mr. Gouverneur Morris—"In my late



tour through the southern states, I experienced great satisfaction in seeing the good effects of the general government in that part of the union. \* \* \* \* Industry has there taken place of idleness, and economy of dissipation. Two or three years of good crops, and a ready market for the produce of their lands, have put every one in good humour; and in some instances, they even impute to the government what is due only to the goodness of Providence."

In the December after his return, he heard the distressing intelligence of the total defeat of the army of General St. Clair, in an engagement with the Indians on the 4th of December, near the Miami river, in the state of Ohio.

When Washington heard of the destruction of the brave men and officers who fell in that battle, he went into a private room with one of his family, and indulged for a few moments his distressed feelings. He walked the floor with his hand pressed to his forehead, and said, "Here, in this very room, the night before his departure, I warned St. Clair to beware of surprise! and yet that brave army surprised and cut to pieces! Butler, and a host of others slain!"

Washington's feelings were naturally violent when excited, but quickly subdued by the firmness with which he practised self-control. And after a few moments, he said,

in a calm voice, "St. Clair shall have justice; yes, long, faithful, and meritorious services shall have their claims."

When the distressed St. Clair, worn down with age and disease, returned and visited him, he grasped the hand of Washington, which was kindly extended to him, and sobbed over it like a child. Many of the undeserved reproaches which were uttered against him, were silenced by the kind manner in which Washington continued to treat him.

After Congress adjourned, the president made another effort to form treaties of peace with the Indians, but was not successful; he then raised more troops, and the command of them was given to General Wayne.

The rapidly increasing prosperity of the United States, was a proof of the wisdom with which the new government had been planned, and was conducted. Public credit was restored, and many who had feared that their country would become a scene of degrading discord, had cause for rejoicing in the influence of the firm and peace-making administration of Washington. The good effect of his wisdom and virtue were so ap-

1793. parent, that when the four years for which he had been elected were passed, the people proved that they knew the value of his unequalled character; and of the millions who had a right to make choice of a president, not one person show-

ed a desire to have any other than Washington; and he was unanimously re-elected. He earnestly wished to return to private life, and expressed to his friends his intention to do so; but they convinced him that it was his duty not to indulge this wish, as the state of public affairs at that time, required all his firm virtue to preserve the government from being engaged in the contentions which were commencing between the nations of Europe. When he met Congress after his re-election, his speech on the state of public affairs was deeply interesting, and contained this expression of pious feelings: "I humbly implore that Being on whose will the fate of nations depends, to crown with success our mutual endeavours for the general happiness."

The French revolution had commenced, and war was declared between England and France. Some Americans thought that their government ought to aid France against England, and the difference of opinion on this subject divided the people into two parties. Those who were in favour of assisting the French, became very warm, and loud in expressing their opinions, but the president was not to be turned from his determination, to "cultivate peace with all the world;" and immediately after his re-election, he proclaimed that the American government would not take any part in the

general war which had commenced. He thus secured for his country the rich blessing of peace; and while war was raging amongst other nations, the Americans increased their trade, and sent large portions of their full harvests to different parts of the world.

The president was so much engaged, that he seldom could allow himself time to take any other exercise than a walk to his watch-maker's, in Second Street, to regulate his watch by the time-piece. Mothers who felt the value of what he had done for their children, watched for the hour in which it was usual for him to pass, and then brought out their children to show Washington to them. When the boys in the streets saw him, they uttered, with a gush of innocent gladness, "Here comes Washington! here comes Washington!" they seldom called him the president. Washington was a far dearer name. When he could be absent from the city for a few hours without neglecting a duty, he enjoyed visiting Judge Peters, at his home on the Schuylkill, a few miles distant from Philadelphia. There he could be refreshed by breathing the reviving air of the country, as he walked beneath the deep shade of lofty hemlocks, the growth of almost a century. In the cultivated ground there, he planted a nut, which has grown into a thriving chestnut tree, and is cherished with care.

In the second year after his re-  
election, he had occasion to exer-  
cise his firmness in quelling an insurrection  
excited in the western parts of Pennsylvania  
by some unprincipled idlers. Americans  
had resisted with bravery and success a fo-  
reign foe, but they had, and it is a sad truth,  
still have, an enemy in their homes, to which  
too many willingly submit, though by doing  
so they yield their right to the name of free-  
men; for *strong drink* is a raging ruler, it  
“stingeth like an adder, and biteth like a  
serpent,” while it chains the body in dis-  
grace and poverty, and makes it a mark for  
the finger of scorn to point at. But this is  
not the only sad effect of its power, for it  
weakens the mind, and either destroys all  
recollection of the laws of God, or else  
causes a total disregard of them, and thus  
prepares the accountable soul for receiving,  
in the day of final judgment, the awful sen-  
tence of everlasting punishment. Young  
Americans, this powerful foe is on every  
side of you, tempting you to become its  
slaves. Beware! touch not, taste not *strong  
drink*, and when you see in the ill-conduct  
of others the evil effects of indulging in a  
love of it, let the bad example cause you sor-  
row, and prove a warning to you to begin  
in youth a firm resistance to such a baleful  
enemy. It was this foe to good order and  
morality, caused the insurrection which has

1794.

been mentioned. Congress had laid a tax on spirits distilled within the United States,

July. and some of the inhabitants of the western part of Pennsylvania, not only refused to pay the tax, but treated with violence those who were appointed to collect it. The disgraceful example was followed by so many, that it became necessary for the president to notice it. He endeavoured to make the rioters submit quietly to the laws, but when he found that they would not do so, he wisely determined on sending against them a force which would be too powerful for them to think of resisting. By doing this, he hoped to prevent any blood being shed. He had no difficulty in collecting respectable Americans, from other parts of the country, who were willing to teach their erring countrymen, that they were not at liberty to disregard or resist the laws.

The general sense of the nation loudly proclaimed, that "Government and the laws must be supported." The troops of New-Jersey and Pennsylvania were directed to assemble at Bedford, in Pennsylvania; and those of Maryland and Virginia, at Cumberland, on the Potomac. Governor Lee, of Virginia, was appointed to command the expedition. The president, in person, visited each division of the army, and reviewed the troops. The army marched in two divisions into the country of the insur-

gents, and as the president had expected, the greatness of the force subdued, without shedding blood, the perverse spirit which had been raging.

General Wayne, on the 20th of August, defeated those Indians who had refused to form a treaty of peace. The battle was fought on the banks of the Miami river, and this victory prevented a general war with the tribes living north-west of the Ohio.

During this season, the cares of Washington were greater perhaps than at any other period of his administration. The British government had not given up their posts on the south side of the lakes, as they had agreed to do in the treaty of peace; and the American government had violated the treaty, by passing some laws, which prevented English subjects from recovering debts due to them in this country.

Washington was just, and would not yield to the clamour which was raised against the English. Many Americans thought that war ought to be declared, and the number who expressed this opinion was increased by the intelligence that some American ships, carrying corn to France, had been seized by British ships of war.

Washington was of opinion, that "Peace ought to be pursued with unremitted zeal," while every necessary preparation should be made for the preservation of national rights,

in case war could not be avoided; and he was firm in his determination to do what he thought would promote the interests of his country, though he knew he was risking his popularity. In writing to a friend, after relating the various difficulties he had to contend with, he said,—“There is but one straight course, and that is, to seek the truth and pursue it steadily.”

He appointed an ambassador to the English government, for the purpose of endeavouring to form a treaty. This ambassador was John Jay, whom the president knew was a sincere patriot and wise man. He succeeded in forming a treaty, and in a letter to the president, said, “I ought not to conceal from you, that the confidence reposed in your personal character was visible and useful throughout the negotiation.” By this treaty, the English surrendered the posts on the south side of the lakes, and this enabled the president to exercise his wisdom and humanity in protecting the inhabitants of the frontiers from the Indians, and in promoting the improvement and comfort of the Indians, for whom he was always interested. In recommending this subject to the attention of Congress, he said, that “As Americans were more powerful and enlightened than the Indians, they ought to treat them with kindness and liberality.”



While with wisdom, uprightness, and firmness, Washington was pursuing that course of conduct towards the English government, which he knew would promote the interests of his country, he was severely tried by the party spirit which was growing strong in the minds of his countrymen, and which encouraged the French Minister to behave in a very insolent manner towards the government. That Minister, Mr. Genet, had arrived in Charleston, in the year 1793, and he undertook to authorize the fitting out of armed vessels there, to capture the vessels of nations with whom the United States were at peace. An English merchant ship was also captured by a French privateer, within the capes of the Delaware, on her way from Philadelphia to the ocean.

The British Minister complained of this, and also of the conduct of Genet; and the council of the president unanimously agreed, that restitution should be made for the capture of the English ship, and that Genet should not be permitted to act again, as he had done at Charleston. This displeased him greatly. He had engaged two Americans to cruise from there; they were arrested, and he demanded their release; not only of the magistrate, but of the president, in a very insolent letter; and calculating on the support of the party in favour of France, he

insulted the government, by appealing to the people against their president.

Washington directed Mr. Morris, the American minister, who was in France, to represent the conduct of Genet to his government, and request that he should be recalled. The request was complied with; but the party feelings which had been excited, continued to increase, and cause Washington's path to be a thorny one. But difficult as it was, being free from those selfish and unworthy passions which are nourished by party conflicts, he pursued steadily the great end which he had always in view, "the best interests of his country."

While he was deeply engaged in public business, he heard intelligence which pained his heart. It was, that La Fayette had been driven from his native land, by the unprincipled men who were conducting the revolution there; and that he had been seized in Prussia, and sent to Austria; the emperor of which directed that he should be confined in a dungeon, in the town of Olmutz. Washington could not interfere for his release, except in the private character of his friend; and he used every means in his power to obtain it; and wrote a letter to the emperor of Austria, requesting him to permit La Fayette to come to America, but his request was not granted.

A young German, named Bolman, and a young American, named Huger, formed a plan for effecting the escape of La Fayette. He was sometimes permitted to leave his dungeon, and walk for a short distance with a guard. One day, Bolman and Huger watched for him, and had a horse ready, which Huger led suddenly up to him, and desired him to mount and escape; the horse took fright and ran off, Bolman followed to endeavour to catch it, and Huger then insisted that La Fayette should mount his horse; he did so, and was soon out of sight. Bolman could not overtake the affrighted horse, and he returned and took Huger behind him, and they followed La Fayette.

The guard gave the alarm, and they were quickly pursued; Huger was seized, but Bolman at that time escaped. La Fayette was stopped, and brought back to Olmutz.

Chained, hand and foot, Huger was carried before a judge, who told him, that it was probable his life would be the forfeit of his attempt to assist La Fayette to escape; but that possibly, the emperor would treat him with clemency, on account of his youth and motives. "Clemency!" said Huger; how can I expect it from a man who did not act even with justice to La Fayette?" The judge said to him, "If ever I need a friend, I hope that friend may be an American." Huger suffered from a close imprisonment

for some time, and was then allowed to return to his own country.

The efforts of Washington for the release of his friend did not cease, and perhaps the letter which he wrote to the emperor had the effect of lessening the severity with which La Fayette had been treated, and of shortening the period of his captivity. His son, named George Washington, made his escape from France, and arrived at Boston. The president advised him to enter the University at Cambridge, and assured him, that he would stand in the place of a father to him, and become his *friend, protector, and supporter*.

Under the watchful care of Washington,  
1796. all the affairs of government were well conducted. The labour of the farmer, the industry of the mechanic, and the trade of the merchant, were encouraged and protected. The same Divine favour which had been granted to him when he was the defender of his country, was graciously continued when he was chief ruler. This was proved by its growing prosperity; for even the wisdom of Washington would have planned in vain, if the promise of God had not been given to him,—“Thou shalt also decree a thing, and it shall be established unto thee; and the light shall shine upon thy ways.”

The plough may furrow the soil, and the

grain may be carefully cast into it, but they will not produce "food for man and beast," unless God gives "the early and the latter rain," to make them grow into a rich harvest. Fleets of busy boats may move on the broad rivers which flow through the land; stately ships may set sail on the deep oceans which surround it; but they will not bring returns for their valuable burdens, unless they are wafted in safety over the waters by him who "commandeth and raiseth the stormy wind which lifteth up the waves," and can calm them again by his powerful word of "Peace, be still."

When the time came for a third election of president, the people felt that eight years of peace and prosperity, under the wise rule of Washington, had increased the attachment and gratitude which he had merited by eight years of faithful service in the defence of their liberty; and again they were ready to unite in voting for him. But he firmly refused to be re-elected. He assured his countrymen, that he did not do so from any want of respect for their past kindness, or from feeling less anxious for their future prosperity;—that he had twice yielded to their wishes, because he thought that it was his duty to do so, but felt that then the happy state of their concerns would permit his retiring to enjoy the quiet of his own home. As his determination was firm, they

did not persist in opposing it, and he prepared to take again the character of a private citizen.

In concluding his last speech to Congress, Dec. 7. he said, "I cannot omit the occasion to repeat my fervent supplications to the Supreme Ruler of the universe and sovereign arbiter of nations, that his providential care may still be extended to the United States; that the virtue and happiness of the people may be preserved, and that the government, which they have instituted for the protection of their liberties, may be perpetual."

Congress addressed to him an answer, in the name of the people, in which they expressed their sincere regret for his determination "to retire from the public employments of his country;" and concluded it with the wish,—“May you long enjoy that liberty which is so dear to you, and to which your name will ever be dear. May your own virtue, and a nation's prayers, obtain the happiest sunshine for the decline of your days, and the choicest of future blessings. For our country's sake,—for the sake of republican liberty, it is our earnest wish, that your example may be the guide of your successors; and thus, after being the ornament and safeguard of the present age, become the patrimony of our descendants.”

In every country, amongst the high and

the low, the rich and the poor, there are persons who delight in the employment of "bearing false witness" against the upright. They may have excuses for doing so, which satisfy themselves; but if they would examine those excuses fairly, they would know that they are not such as they will venture to offer to the great searcher of hearts, when they appear before him, to give an account of their evil thoughts and false words. The character of Washington was attacked by slanderous tongues; but "*Malice* never could blast his honour." "Greatness and guilt have too often been allied; but *his* fame was whiter than it was brilliant."

His last address to his countrymen was like that of an affectionate father to a beloved family, and contained the most instructive, important, and interesting advice, that was ever given by man to any nation. He counselled his countrymen to cherish union as the main prop of their liberty, and said, that "Party spirit was baneful in its effects; created jealousies and false fears; kindled enmities, and often caused riots;" and that the mischiefs it occasioned, were "sufficient to make it the duty and interest of a wise people to discourage and restrain it." He said, "Observe good faith and justice towards all nations; cultivate peace and harmony with all; religion and morality enjoin this conduct."



He recommended active attention to every means for increasing useful instruction in every part of the country; and said, that religion and morality were the only sure supports of national prosperity; and that in vain would that man “claim the tribute of patriotism, who should labour to subvert those great pillars of human happiness, these firmest props of the duties of men and citizens. The mere politician equally with the pious man, ought to respect and cherish them. A volume could not trace all their connexions with public and private felicity.” He said that there could be no safety for property or reputation, if there was no feeling of the solemn obligation of the oaths taken in a court of justice. That morality and religion must not be separated, for there could be no certainty of upright conduct where there was no religious principle.

In closing this important and affectionate farewell address, he said, “Though in reviewing the incidents of my administration, I am unconscious of intentional error; I am nevertheless too sensible of my defects, not to think it probable that I may have committed many errors. Whatever they may be, I fervently beseech the Almighty to avert or mitigate the evils to which they may tend. I shall also carry with me the hope, that my country will never cease to view them with indulgence; and that after



forty-five years of my life, dedicated to its service, with an upright zeal, the faults of incompetent abilities will be consigned to oblivion, as myself must soon be to the mansions of rest."

Not many of his countrymen had hearts so cold as to be indifferent to this tender and instructive farewell, and it was received with grateful feelings. It was long, and has been often published; and all young Americans should read it with attention, and make a firm determination, that they will endeavour to follow the important and affectionate counsel, which the wise and virtuous Washington has left them as a legacy. He toiled through years of anxious cares to promote the happiness of his countrymen, and knowing that "sin is a disgrace to any people," but that "righteousness exalteth a nation," he earnestly entreated them to consider *religion* as the only lasting support of national prosperity.

When the Americans were convinced, that they must allow Washington to retire from office, they elected John Adams, who was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. Washington remained to offer his good wishes as a private citizen to the new president, and then immediately journeyed towards his home, which he was anxious to reach; and in a letter to a friend, he said, "To the wearied traveller, who

sees a resting place, and is bending his body to lean thereon, I now compare myself."

He was no longer president of the United States, but he was still WASHINGTON! and that loved name drew forth grateful proofs of attachment from the people, all the way as he passed. Delightful must have been his sensations when he arrived at Mount Vernon. He could enjoy its quiet comforts, and look back with thankful satisfaction at the prosperity in which he had left the concerns of his country. Abroad and at home, credit was established; the authority of the government was firmly fixed; agriculture improving,—commerce increasing,—Indian enemies persuaded, or forced to lay down the murderous hatchet,—and peace with all the world proclaimed.

Washington was ever ready to acknowledge the particular providence, and to adore the glorious character, of the Creator of heaven and of earth; and therefore when he rejoiced in the prosperity of his loved country, his heart could feel and offer the ascription, "Unto thee, O Lord, be all the glory and the praise."

## CHAPTER XI.

The rest for which Washington had longed, was not *idleness*; and when he had examined every part of his large farm, which had been in some degree neglected during his absence, he immediately commenced the employment of improving it.

His faithful mother, in forming his first habits, had not neglected that of early rising; and through the whole of his useful life, that habit was continued; in winter, he rose usually two hours before day; and in summer, was ready to enjoy the healthful freshness and beauty of the dawn. Thus did the man, who stands highest in the admiration of the world, and whose deeds were exalted and laborious, set an example to his countrymen, which if they imitate, they will gain for themselves many a precious hour; which, if *well employed*, may tend to secure the Divine promise, "The Lord shall command the blessing upon thee in thy store-houses, and in all that thou settest thy hand unto: and he shall bless thee in the land, which the Lord thy God giveth thee."

The habit of early rising, in connexion with the exemplary one of strict attention to order in all his employments, gave Wash-

ington "time for all things," so that though he had such numerous and arduous public duties to attend to, he did not neglect any private one, but performed with ease himself, what would seem to be employment for many. He was remarkably neat in his person; but used a very short portion of time for attention to his dress.

After his return to his farm, he visited his stables every day, to be certain that his horses were well taken care of. The one on which he rode, when he was directing the siege of Yorktown, he did not use again; it was allowed to graze on the best pasture in summer, and was carefully stabled in winter, and died of old age, several years after the close of the war.

Washington was employed for several hours, each day, in visiting all parts of his large farm. He went alone, opening and shutting the gates, and pulling down and putting up the bars as he passed.

One day, Colonel Meade, a valued friend of Washington, was met by Mr. Custis, a relation of Mrs. Washington; Colonel Meade inquired if he should find the General at the house, or if he was out on the farm. Mr. Custis, not knowing Colonel Meade, replied, that the General was out; and giving directions as to the part of the farm on which he would probably be found, added, "You will meet, sir, with an *old gentleman*,

*riding alone, in plain drab clothes, a broad brimmed white hat, a hickory switch in his hand, and carrying an umbrella, with a long staff, which is attached to his saddle-bow,—that, sir, is General Washington!”* The old friend of Washington replied, “Thank ye, thank ye, young gentleman; I think, if I fall in with the General, I shall be rather apt to know him.”

This description of Washington, gives us some knowledge of how he looked on his farm. So many pictures of him, in different situations, have been drawn,—and young Americans have so often seen him represented on sign-posts in every part of the land, that they think they know exactly how he looked; but unless they had seen him, instead of pictures of him, they can have no correct idea of his noble appearance.

In his youth he was remarkable for the straightness and manliness of his form, which was six feet and two inches high. The expression of his countenance was serious, but very pleasing; his eyes were a mild blue, and the flush of health gave a glow to his cheeks. His step was always firm; but after the toils of the long war, his body was a little bent as he walked, and his once smooth forehead and cheeks, were marked with care-worn furrows.

The venerable Charles Wilson Peale, who was the founder of the Philadelphia Mu-

seum, and lived to enter his eighty-sixth year, drew a likeness of him, when he was Colonel Washington, in the service of the king of England; and another, when he was the president of the freed and United States.

The river Potomac, which flows by Mount Vernon, mingles with the Shenandoah river, at Harper's Ferry,—a scene in nature, mild and grand, and which

“Prompts with remembrance of a present God,”

all those who view it with an admiration of his “manifold works.” There, the Shenandoah, after ranging from the south a hundred miles along the foot of the Blue Ridge, flows into the Potomac, and they seem to have been united for the purpose of forcing for themselves a passage through the opposing mountain, by rending it asunder, with the rushing of their waters. After foaming and bubbling over the rocks which project from the bottom of the great chasm, the united streams roll calmly on towards the ocean, with the name of Potomac, and give variety to the landscape of a level country, which is seen like a distant picture, through the opening in the Blue Ridge.

From the lofty sides of the cleft, hang great crags of rock, many of which are decorated with long streamers of mountain vines; and in the light soil, which has

rested in their crevices, grow the blue harebell and scarlet columbine. In one place, a solid mass of rock rises, like a lofty wall, from the shore of the Potomac, and seems as if it had been left there to echo to the water the command of its Creator, "hitherto shalt thou come and no further." At a great height, the surface of the wall of rock is broken in the form of a human head, and the profile can be plainly traced. Travelers, who stop to gaze at the grand scenery around, are told that this profile on the rock, resembles that of Washington; and Americans who look at it, can readily and fondly think, that they see a likeness of him, where the hand of man can never reach to deface it.

At Harper's Ferry are extensive public works, for making military arms. If his countrymen regard and follow the important farewell counsel of Washington, to "*Observe good faith and justice towards all nations, and to cultivate peace and harmony with all,*" these arms will not be used, except as weapons of defence; and then not until "the cup of reconciliation is exhausted to the last drop."

A weekly school is kept at Harper's Ferry, for the children of the workmen, and they have the blessing of Sunday-school instruction.

If Washington had lived to the time when there are Sunday-schools in almost

every portion of his native land, no doubt as a Christian patriot, he would have rejoiced to see the children, which are to form a nation, taught to know their Creator as he has revealed himself in his word,—to fear, obey, and love him,—and thus secure the blessing of “the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations.”

Washington said, “Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports.” Certainly, then, he would have approved of infants being taught to lisp the pure precepts of the gospel, and trained to restrain those natural dispositions, which, if indulged, would make them in manhood, useless or vicious members of the community. He also said, that “without an humble imitation of the example of the divine Author of our blessed religion, we cannot hope to be a happy nation.” And as Washington always acted as if he believed what he expressed, he would have encouraged the effort to place in every family of his country the Bible, which teaches what that Divine example was, and how to obtain that “new heart,” and “right spirit,” which delights in following it.

The wants of the poor were neither forgotten nor neglected by Washington. He



contributed liberally to the support of schools for the children of the indigent; and the sick and the aged could bear testimony to the benevolence of his heart.

On his farm he had a comfortable house built for an old English soldier, who had been an attendant of General Braddock, at the time of his defeat; after his death, he entered into the service of Washington, and continued in it until the close of the provincial war; he then married, and a home was provided for him at Mount Vernon. He was too old to follow his revered commander in the struggle for independence, and was left at home to enjoy the comforts which old age requires. Children loved to visit the old soldier, and listen to his tales of the Indian war, which he delighted in telling. When Washington was passing round his farm, he often stopped to gladden the heart of the gray headed veteran with kind words; and he lived to enjoy the comforts which had been provided for him, until he was eighty years of age.

The days of Washington were spent in useful employments, and his evenings in the enjoyment of domestic happiness. It was then his custom to read to his family, such new publications as interested him, and on Sunday evenings the Bible and sermons. Sometimes he would sit, as if he forgot that he was not alone, and raising his hand he

would move his lips silently. In town or country, he was a constant attendant at church, and by his devout deportment there, proved that he went to church for the purpose of worshipping God. He always acknowledged by his example, that he felt his solemn obligation to keep holy the Sabbath day; and to influence others to do so as far as was within his power.

His nephew, Bushrod Washington, now a Judge of the Supreme Court of the United States, was elected in the year 1826, a Vice President of the American Sunday-School Union! He resides at Mount Vernon, which was left to him by his illustrious uncle. In a part of his answer to the letter which informed him of his election, he wrote thus: "I beg leave now to express the grateful sense I had of the honour conferred upon me by the American Sunday-School Union, in electing me one of the Vice Presidents of that institution, and of the approbation bestowed by the Board of Managers upon the well-intended efforts which I have made to secure the due observance of the Sabbath-day, upon a spot, where I am persuaded, it was never violated, during the life, and with the permission of its former venerable and truly Christian owner."

General Washington said, that "both reason and experience forbid us to expect that morality can prevail to the exclusion of

religious principle;" and this sentiment is well supported by the great Chief Justice Hale, of England, who said, "that of all the persons who were convicted of capital crimes, while he was upon the bench, he found a few only, who would not confess, on inquiry, that they began their career of wickedness by *a neglect of the duties of the Sabbath, and vicious conduct on that day.*" And no doubt, the prisons of our own country, could produce a host of witnesses to testify the same. Then the example of Washington in remembering "the Sabbath day, to keep it holy," was that of a patriot as well as of a Christian.

The peaceful life of Washington on his farm was again disturbed by a call from his countrymen to become their leader in the defence of their rights as a nation. The French republic had refused to receive General Pinckney, a highly respected American, whom Washington had sent to France as minister in the year 1796. He was ordered to quit the territories of France, and at the same time that the French republic expressed great attachment to the people of the United States they abused the government, and thus showed an intention to endeavour to separate the people from their government. They also captured American vessels wherever they were found. The government of the United States appointed three envoys,

one of whom was General Pinckney, to endeavour to preserve peace “on terms compatible with the rights, duties, interests, and honour of the nation.”

In the spring of 1798, they informed their government that they had entirely failed, and were treated in a very insulting manner. Two of them were ordered to quit France, and one who was thought to be disposed to favour the design of the French republic, was permitted to remain. That these designs were to attempt to make the Americans a tributary nation soon became plain, and throughout the United States the favourite sentiment of all parties was, “millions for defence, but not a cent for tribute.”

Congress determined on raising an army, and though they regretted to deprive the venerable Washington of that rest which he had earned by his past services, they complied with the wishes of his countrymen, and requested him to accept the command of the army. In his reply to this request, which was communicated in a letter from the president, he said, “I cannot  
 express how greatly I am affected July 13.  
 by this new proof of public confidence. \* \* \* \*  
 Satisfied that you have sincerely wished and endeavoured to avert war, and exhausted to the last drop, the cup of reconciliation; we can with pure hearts appeal to heaven for the justice of our cause, and may con-

fidently trust, the final result to that kind Providence who has heretofore, and so often signally favoured the people of the United States. Thinking in this manner, and feeling how incumbent it is upon every person of every description, to contribute at all times to his country's welfare, I have finally determined to accept the commission of Commander in Chief of the armies of the United States, with this reserve only, that I shall not be called into the field until the army is in a situation to require my presence, or it becomes indispensable by the urgency of circumstances."

He continued to employ himself on his farm, being ready at any moment to obey a call to the duties of his appointment. He was one day attending to some improvements which he had planned, when a shower of rain fell; before he could reach a shelter his clothes were wet: he changed them when he returned home, and sat down to an in-door employment, for he never passed an hour in idleness. In the evening, when he joined his family at the tea-table, he said he felt a chilliness, and after drinking one cup of tea, he went into his library, where he remained alone all the evening, for his family knew that he wished not to be disturbed when he was there. His usual hour for retiring to rest was 9 o'clock. When that hour had passed, Mrs. Washing-

Dec. 13.

ton became uneasy, because she did not hear his well known step, or his call to the family to prepare for bed. When at length he entered his chamber, she expressed her surprise that he had staid in his library so late when he was not well; he replied, "I came as soon as the business I was engaged in was accomplished; you know that through life it has been my unvaried rule, never to put off till to-morrow the duties which should be performed to-day." Soon after he laid down to rest, he was seized with a violent disease in his throat, accompanied with a fever. He would not disturb his family until towards morning, and he was then bled, but did not feel relieved. At 11 o'clock his physician, who was a long loved friend, arrived, and on seeing him, became so much alarmed that he desired that two other physicians might be sent for. They came, but all human skill was useless. When Washington felt the chill the evening before, he believed it to be a messenger from his Creator to warn him to prepare for entering "the valley of the shadow of death;" and he only consented to take the medicines which were offered to him, because he thought it was his duty to gratify his anxious friends. He rose from his bed, and named a place where two papers would be found which he wished to have. When they were brought, he directed that one

should be destroyed, but said, taking the other in his hand, "preserve this, it is my will." His disease increased so much that he could not swallow, and he undressed himself and laid down to die, requesting that he might not be disturbed, and saying, with calmness, "I am dying, and have been dying for a long time, but I am not afraid to die." He did not speak again until the night was far advanced, and then he asked faintly, what was the hour, and was answered, "near 12 o'clock." In a few minutes he stretched his form to its full length, folded his arms across his breast, and his countenance became so placid, as his "spirit returned to God, who gave it," that Dec. 14. the friends who were watching

him in almost breathless silence, did not know the moment of his death. His loved wife kneeled beside his bed, with her head resting on the Bible, in which she daily read the precepts, and cheering promises of her Saviour; and they comforted her in her hour of deepest sorrow. Her miniature portrait was found on the bosom of Washington, where he had worn it for forty years.

The report of his death reached Congress before they knew of his sickness; and when they heard it, a solemn silence prevailed for several minutes; Judge Marshall, the present Chief Justice of the United States, observed, "This information is not certain,

but there is too much reason to believe it true. After receiving intelligence of a national calamity so heavy and afflicting, the House of Representatives can be but ill-fitted for public business." He then moved an adjournment, and both houses adjourned until the next day. When Congress then met, Mr. Marshall rose and said,

"The melancholy event which was yesterday announced with doubt, has been rendered but too certain; our Washington is no more! The hero, the patriot, the sage of America—the man on whom in times of danger every eye was turned, and all hopes were placed, lives now only in his own great actions, and the hearts of an affectionate and afflicted people. If it had even not been usual openly to testify respect for the memory of those whom heaven has selected as its instruments for dispensing good to man, yet such has been the uncommon worth, and such the extraordinary incidents which have marked the life of him whose loss we deplore, that the whole American nation, impelled by the same feelings, would call with one voice, for a public manifestation of that sorrow, which is so deep and so universal. More than any other individual, and as much as to one individual was possible, he has contributed to found this our wide-spreading empire, and to give the western world independence and freedom. Having effected the



great object for which he was placed at the head of our armies, we have seen him convert the sword into the ploughshare, and sink the soldier into the citizen.

“When the debility of our federal system had become manifest, and the bonds which connected this vast continent were dissolving, we have seen him the chief of those patriots who formed for us a constitution, which by preserving the union, will, I trust, substantiate and perpetuate those blessings which our revolution had promised to bestow.

“In obedience to the general voice of his country, calling him to preside over a great people, we have seen him once more quit the retirement he loved, and in a season more stormy and tempestuous than war itself, with calm and wise determination pursue the true interests of the nation, and contribute more than other could contribute, to the establishment of that system of policy, which will, I trust, yet preserve our peace, our honour, and our independence. Having been twice unanimously chosen the chief magistrate of a free people, we have seen him, at a time when his re-election with universal suffrage could not be doubted, afford to the world a rare instance of moderation, by withdrawing from his station to the peaceful walks of private life. However public confidence may change, and the

public affections fluctuate with respect to others, with respect to him, they have in war, and in peace, in public and in private life, been as steady as his own firm mind, and as constant as his own exalted virtues.

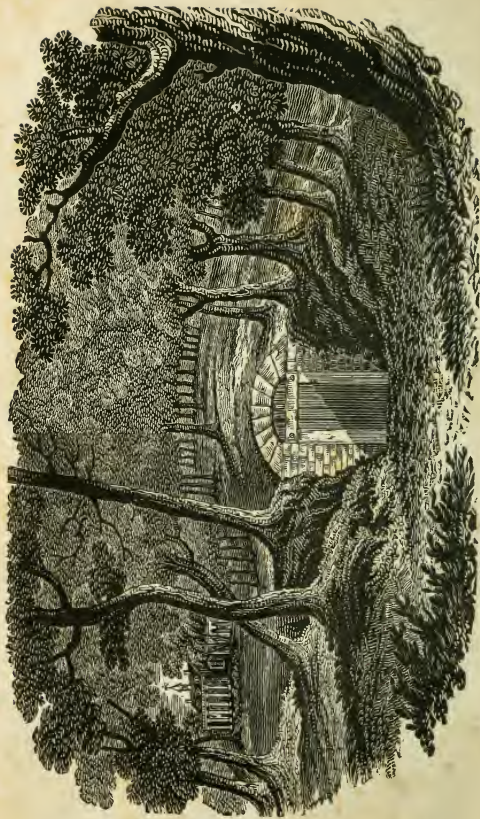
“Let us, then, pay the last tribute of respect to our departed friend. Let the grand council of the nation display those sentiments which the nation feels.”

Mr. Marshal then proposed several resolutions; one of which was, “Resolved, That a committee, in conjunction with one from the Senate, be appointed to consider on the most suitable manner of paying honour to the memory of the man, first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his fellow citizens.”

The Senate addressed a letter to the president, in which they said, “Permit us, sir, to mingle our tears with yours. On this occasion it is manly to weep. To lose such a man, at such a crisis, is no common calamity to the world. Our country mourns a father. The Almighty disposer of human events, has taken from us our greatest benefactor and ornament. It becomes us to submit with reverence to him ‘who maketh darkness his pavilion.’”

The president returned an answer expressive of his sorrow for the death of Washington, and in the conclusion of it, said, “His example is now complete; and it will





teach wisdom and virtue to magistrates, citizens, and men, not only in the present age, but in future generations, as long as our history shall be read."

The people throughout the United States, mourned for Washington. They had been ever ready to unite in expressing their grateful attachment to him, and they felt that they had indeed lost their greatest benefactor.

In his will, which was a just and benevolent one, he directed that his body should be laid in a vault, at Mount Vernon, and added, "It is my express desire, that my corpse may be interred in a private manner, without parade or funeral oration."

On the 18th of December, he was laid in the grave, "the house appointed for all living;" and the last home of Washington, is an humble grass-covered tomb, surrounded with evergreens.

## CONCLUSION.

Washington was born on the 22d of February, in the year 1732, and died on the 14th of December, 1799.

Young reader, you have learned why there was cause for joy in his birth day, and for sorrow in the day of his death. If you have been attentive to what you have read of his conduct, from the one day to the other, you know, that in childhood he was a lover of truth, and a just peace-maker among his school-mates;—that in boyhood, he was a diligent scholar, and the leader of his companions; not in mischief, folly, or vice,—but in harmless and healthy exercises; and was a pattern of obedience to the wishes of a parent;—that when the years of boyhood were passed, he immediately applied to useful purposes, the knowledge which he had acquired by attention to instruction; and that early in manhood, he merited the confidence of the government of his native Province, and was entrusted with important and dangerous duties, which he performed with faithful perseverance;—that he used all his talents, and spent almost all his years, from manhood to declining age, in the service and

for the benefit of his fellow beings; and even in old age, was willing to yield the peaceful enjoyments which he loved most, because he thought that it was "the duty of every person, of every description, to contribute, at all times, to his country's welfare."

Through all his toilsome and tempting course, he was true, just, industrious, temperate, honest, generous, brave, humane, modest,—a real lover of his country, and an humble worshipper of God. Was he not worthy of your imitation? Your station in life may be a lowly one, but if your home is even a log hut, you may be, like Washington, a lover of truth, temperate, industrious, just, humane, honest, submissive to the government of your country, and obedient to the commands of God, and grow up to be indeed *freemen*,—and to enjoy, under the protection of just laws, the comfortable subsistence which in this favoured land you may obtain for yourselves.

But, remember, Washington directed his countrymen to a higher example than his; he said that he earnestly prayed they might follow that of "THE DIVINE AUTHOR OF OUR BLESSED RELIGION," and the Bible, the sacred book which makes known that example, you should value as the crown of all your blessings; for in it, you may learn how

to secure their continuance through this *short life*, and how to obtain that blissful gift of God, "*Eternal life*, through Jesus Christ, our Lord."



NAMES OF THE SIGNERS OF THE  
DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.*New-Hampshire.*

Josiah Bartlett, William Whipple,  
Matthew Thornton.

*Massachusetts.*

Samuel Adams, Robert Treat Paine,  
John Adams, Elbridge Gerry.

*Rhode Island.*

Stephen Hopkins, William Ellery.

*Connecticut.*

Roger Sherman, William Williams,  
Samuel Huntington, Oliver Wolcott.

*New-York.*

William Floyd, Francis Lewis,  
Philip Livingston, Lewis Morris.

*New-Jersey.*

Richard Stockton, Francis Hopkinson,  
John Witherspoon, John Hart,  
Abram Clark.

*Pennsylvania.*

Robert Morris, George Clymer,  
Benjamin Rush, James Smith,  
Benjamin Franklin, George Taylor,  
John Morton, James Wilson,  
George Ross.

*Delaware.*

Cesar Rodney, George Read.

*Maryland.*

Samuel Chase,	Thomas Stone,
William Paca,	Charles Carroll,
	of Carrollton.

*Virginia.*

George Wythe,	Benjamin Harrison,
Richard Henry Lee,	Thomas Nelson, Jun.
Thomas Jefferson,	Francis Lightfoot Lee.
Carter Braxton.	

*North-Carolina.*

William Hooper,	Joseph Hughes,
	John Penn.

*South-Carolina.*

Edward Rutledge,	Thomas Lynch, Jun.
Thomas Heyward, Jr.	Arthur Middleton.

*Georgia.*

Button Gwinnett,	George Walton,
	Lyman Hall.

The venerable Charles Carroll of Carrollton, now in the ninety-second year of his age, is the only surviving member of this patriotic assembly.

Thomas Jefferson and John Adams, members who were most active in supporting the Declaration, and who were afterwards presidents of the United and Freed States, both died on the 4th of July, 1826, the fiftieth year of their country's independence.

THE END.

— DRELL











